

# TEXAS CO-OP POWER



Carson County Square House Museum • San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts  
 Pioneer Museum/Gillespie County Historical Society • Depot Museum • XIT Museum  
 W.K. Gordon Center for Industrial History of Texas • Texas Forestry Museum  
 Museum of the Coastal Bend • Museums of Port Isabel • Old Jail Art Center



# SEVERE WEATHER! ARE YOU READY?

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Don't mess with floods. Flooding is the leading cause of weather-related fatalities in Texas. The simple decisions you make can mean the difference between life and death.


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- Never drive through water on a road. It can be deeper than it appears. Floodwaters can damage roadways, creating invisible sinkholes or washed out bridges.
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- Don't attempt to walk through rapidly running water. As little as 6 inches can knock adults off their feet.
- Keep an emergency kit in your car, including a flashlight with extra batteries, drinking water and a battery-operated radio.
- If you have a cell phone, program the number for police or fire department rescue.

Take the high road when it comes to flood safety. Your life depends on it.



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# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

A MAGAZINE ABOUT TEXAS LIVING

## Museums for All Interests

**W**elcome to our second annual travel edition! Each April we highlight destinations of interest to our readers. This year, our spotlight is on Texas museums.

Selecting the museums to feature in this issue was hard—there were just too many good museums to narrow the list to only 10. Our intention was to choose museums that cover a broad range of subjects across the wide reaches of Texas. These museums do not receive the same sort of publicity generated by their big-city counterparts, but each has something special that we believe our readers will enjoy.

Texas Living is devoted to Foods You Never Heard Of. Food Editor Shannon Oelrich had fun with this one! The Festival of the Month is Ennis's 54th Bluebonnet Trails Festival. In order to share the limelight with other flowers as well, we asked photographer/naturalist Stephan Myers to send us a photo and story about a little-known and hard-to-find flower. You can see the beautiful grass pink orchid in Texas, USA. Focus on Texas also has a spring theme: gardening.

Check the announcement on page 31 about our upcoming *Texas Co-op Power* Holiday Baking Contest sponsored by Adams Extract. We are excited to be able to offer co-op members a cooking contest with cash prizes. The top co-op bakers and their winning recipes will appear in our December issue.

Enjoy!

Peg Champion  
Vice President, Communications/  
Publisher



## Travel Issue



A spinning wheel in the Pioneer Museum in Fredericksburg.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIONEER MUSEUM

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Bypass the big cities and check out these outstanding museums:

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By Stephan Myers  
Grass Pink Orchid, Lake Sam Rayburn.

#### IS IT E.T.?

One of the sweet potatoes grown last year by CoServ Electric member **MILLARD SMITH** bears a close resemblance to the star of the famous movie. "I had several other unusually shaped potatoes, and some that weighed as much as 9 pounds each," Smith said. For more Gardens & Gardening photos, turn to page 45.

COVER ILLUSTRATION: ALETHA ST. ROMAIN



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# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

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## Transformers

It doesn't take a crack shot to hit an electric insulator or transformer, just a crackpot. During hunting season, careless shooters taking pot shots at electric equipment can cause major problems for your electric company.

### Here's why:

- You are inconveniencing your fellow member-customers whose electricity has been disrupted.
- It could even be a matter of life and death to someone on a life-support system or to someone who is hit by a stray shot.
- Damage to electrical equipment is very expensive to repair. Lines may be cut or weakened from a shot, and they may sag or break, becoming a severe hazard for anyone who comes in contact with the line.
- Broken insulators can cause power outages that are hard—and expensive—to find. An insulator cracked by a bullet can remain on line for a long time before it finally fails.

Enjoy your sport, but be a responsible hunter. Teach your children to respect power lines, electrical equipment and guns so that they, too, will be responsible hunters.



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This public service message is brought to you by your local electric cooperative. See your local co-op for details.

# ONLY CRACKPOTS TAKE SHOTS

### New Possibilities

I wanted to thank you for your article "Talking Books" [February 2005] and I want to thank the Wierzbicki family for sharing Jason's story. My son, who knows Jason and is also an ice hockey player for the Austin Roadrunners, has recently been diagnosed with dyslexia. He has not, however, been very comfortable accepting it. I think that when his sister read the article to him, he started thinking that dyslexia might not be so bad. He's pretty good at ice hockey, too. I have started the process to get Mario into the Talking Book Program and am very excited about the possibilities.

MELINDA DE LA ISLA, Pedernales EC

### Talking Books Spoke to Many

On behalf of the staff and volunteers of the Talking Book Program, I would like to thank you for the article, "Talking Books." The article was well written and obviously informed people about our services. We have received many phone calls since the article appeared, and requests for applications have tripled. We all appreciated the fact that you thought our program was worth the time and effort put into the article. The information disseminated will educate many about our program and help our services become available to those who need them but did not know they existed or that they are free of charge. We also appreciate the help reaching potential patrons in rural areas of the state because lack of budget and staffing restrict our ability to reach into those areas.

AVA M. SMITH

Division Director, Talking Book Program  
Texas State Library and Archives Commission

### Remembering Pappy

Enjoyed your article on "Please Pass the Biscuits, Pappy" [January 2005]. Being 12 years old at the time, I remember his run for governor well. My mother and dad were supporters of Pappy. My mother made me and my brother shirts from Hillbilly Flour sacks that had the band's picture and names, along with "Please Pass the Biscuits, Pappy" and other slogans, on

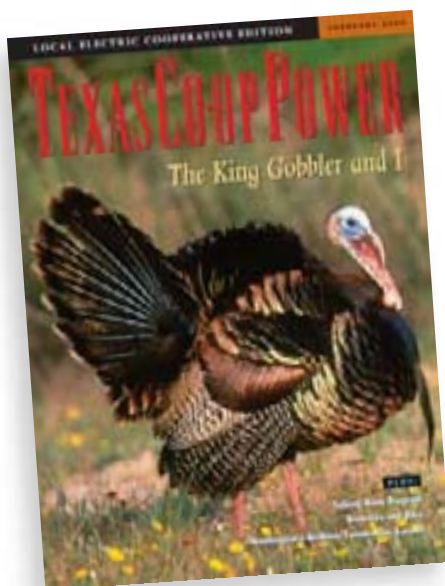
them. I still remember his radio theme song:

I like mountain music,  
Good old mountain music,  
Played by the real Hillbilly Band.  
I like bread and biscuits,  
Big, white, fluffy biscuits.  
Hillbilly Flour will make them stand.  
So I will sing and play,  
And try to make folks happy.  
We hope you will say—what?  
"Please pass the biscuits, Pappy."

I also have a quilt made from those flour sacks, which has won first place in several quilt contests. I will pin your article to my quilt.

TROY SCHMITTO, Grayson-Collin EC

**Editor's response:** The article referred to in this letter did not appear in all local editions of Texas Co-op Power. Read this and other articles you might have missed on our website, [www.texascooppower.com](http://www.texascooppower.com).



### Blood Sport

After reading the story about the hunt for the King Gobbler ["The King Gobbler and I," February 2005], I felt physically ill. In the last line of the story, Ms. Ebert writes, "Just seeing the splendor was reward enough." Why, then, was it necessary to kill the magnificent trophy birds? Let Ms. Ebert and her ilk keep their chronicles of blood sports in other magazines and out of your otherwise fine publication.

CHERIE KING, Pedernales EC

### As If We Were There

In the February 2005 issue of Texas Co-op Power, my husband and I enjoyed "The King Gobbler and I." The article by Susan Ebert was so well written, we felt as if we were on the hunt as well!

Texas is a great state to have so much variety of wildlife to hunt. May the King Gobbler live!

JERRY AND LILLIAN BEASLEY, Bluebonnet EC

### One Man's Trash ...

Just a note to let you know I really would like to receive your Texas Co-op Power magazine. I know this sounds bad, but I found it in the wastebasket at the post office. I found wonderful recipes. Whoever threw it away just doesn't know what they're missing.

BRENDA SADLER, Trenton, Texas

**Editor's response:** Folks who aren't lucky enough to receive Texas Co-op Power from their electric cooperative each month can subscribe for only \$15 per year. Just send a check or money order to Subscriptions, Texas Co-op Power, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704.

### Now That Is Service!

This afternoon I returned home to find the power out. I called Grayson-Collin EC, and was told that the crew was already headed our way. What great service! I went out to eat rather than stay hungry in a dark house. I finally returned, delighted to find the lights on again. As I entered the house, I noticed a call on the machine—GCEC had called. Now that is service! I have lived in several big cities with large power companies, but I have never experienced the level of caring and rapid response that I have witnessed from GCEC.

MARY TADDIKEN, Grayson-Collin EC

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM OUR READERS.

Send letters to:

Editor, Texas Co-op Power,  
2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704.

Please include the name of your town and electric co-op. Letters may be edited for clarity and length and will be printed as space allows.





## PIONEER MUSEUM/ GILLESPIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### FREDERICKSBURG

PIONEER MUSEUM/GILLESPIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 309 W. SAN ANTONIO ST., FREDERICKSBURG. (830) 997-2835, PIONEERMUSEUM.COM. MONDAYS-SATURDAYS, 10 TO 5; SUNDAYS, 1 TO 5. ADMISSION \$4; CHILDREN UNDER 11 FREE. AREA SERVED BY CENTRAL TEXAS EC.

**P**EOPLE MAKE SPECIAL VISITS TO BIG-CITY MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITS, BUT RARELY DO THEY MAKE SMALL-TOWN MUSEUMS A VACATION DESTINATION. PASSING UP THE SMALLER MUSEUMS CAN BE A MAJOR OVERSIGHT; THERE ARE GEMS SCATTERED ACROSS THE STATE. *TEXAS CO-OP POWER* ASKED HISTORIAN LONN TAYLOR TO INFORMALLY SURVEY SOME COLLEAGUES FOR RECOMMENDATIONS ON OUTSTANDING ONES. AS IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO MENTION ALL OF THEM IN A SINGLE ISSUE, WE NARROWED THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO 10. § OUR INTENTION IS TO GIVE READERS A TASTE OF THE QUALITY AND VARIETY OF MUSEUMS OUTSIDE THE METROPOLITAN AREAS. SOME HAVE HEALTHY BUDGETS AND OTHERS ARE RUN ON A SHOESTRING BY THE GOOD GRACES OF TIRELESS VOLUNTEERS. ALL ARE WORTH A VISIT, BUT DON'T STOP WITH THESE. THERE ARE MANY, MANY MORE TO EXPLORE.

BY LONN TAYLOR, LOUIE BOND, CHERYL TUCKER, CAROL MOCZYGENBA, SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS AND EILEEN MATTEI

**T**HE GILLESPIE COUNTY HISTORICAL Society in Fredericksburg (population 9,000) probably has more square footage of exhibit space per capita than any other small-town museum in Texas. The buildings occupy most of a city block between Fredericksburg's two main streets, and include a Methodist church, four dwelling houses, a school, a bath-house, a smokehouse and a barn.

The star of the show is the 1849 Kamlah House, whose raised stone cooking hearth in a stone-floored kitchen reminds visitors that the German settlers of Fredericksburg liked to do things *richtig* (right)—i.e., the way they were done in Germany—long after they first arrived in Texas. The story the museum tells is of the persistence of German culture in the Hill Country. You can walk into a stone-chinked log cabin, a 16x20-foot “Sunday house” used by a ranch family on their weekends in town, and a





A reconstruction of Vereinskirche (top), the first church built in Fredericksburg in 1847, and Kamlah House (below), a 16x20-foot "Sunday house."

schoolhouse with a German motto hanging on the wall that reads: *Arbeit macht das Leben süss. Faulheit schwacht die Glieder.* (Work makes life sweet. Laziness makes the limbs weak.)



Going into the Kamlah House is like exploring your grandmother's attic, if your grandmother had come over from Germany in the 1850s. The house started as a one-room *fachwerk* (half-timbered) building and grew over the years into a warren of rooms and spaces, some of them on different levels. They are crammed with stuff that has been piling up in the society's collections for the past 70 years—rifles made by a local gunsmith, embroidered silk banners carried by singing societies, cooking utensils brought from Germany.

Just down the street, you can visit a reconstruction of the Vereinskirche, the first church built by Fredericksburg's settlers in 1847. The original eight-sided structure was nicknamed

the *Kaffemuhle* because of its resemblance to a coffee mill; the replica was built in 1935.

The barn behind the house contains, among other objects, a large homemade band saw, part of the Ty Cox Tool Collection, the largest collection of cabinetmakers' tools in Texas.

#### WHILE YOU'RE THERE

**FRIEDHELM'S BAVARIAN INN**, 905 W. Main St., (830) 997-6300. Great steaks, German food and seafood. Casual atmosphere.

**RATHER SWEET BAKERY & CAFÉ**, 249 E. Main St., (830) 990-0498. Wonderful baked goods and sandwiches.

**FREDERICKSBURG BREWING CO.-BED & BREW**, 245 E. Main St., (830) 997-1646. Eleven upstairs guest rooms, one handicap-accessible on first floor. All decorated differently. Each guest gets four samples of beer per night. No children. Downstairs restaurant serves steaks, seafood, German food, pasta, soups, stews, salads, sandwiches and pizza.

**FIRST CLASS BED & BREAKFAST**, Reservation Service, 909 E. Main St., (830) 997-0443 or 1-888-991-6749. Fredericksburg has more than 350 B&B accommodations. Local reservation services can book B&Bs, guest houses and hotels. Most include breakfast.

#### OLD JAIL ART CENTER

##### ALBANY

OLD JAIL ART CENTER, 201 S. SECOND ST., ALBANY. (325) 762-2269, [THEOLDJAILARTCENTER.ORG](http://THEOLDJAILARTCENTER.ORG). TUESDAYS-SATURDAYS, 10 TO 5; SUNDAYS, 2 TO 5. ADMISSION IS FREE. AREA SERVED BY BIG COUNTRY, COMANCHE AND TAYLOR E.C.s.

**I**F YOU'VE NEVER DONE JAIL TIME, here's your chance to be "incarcerated," and with world-class art, no less. In its present life as a museum, Albany's Old Jail Art Center may be the most highly respected small-town museum in the state.

Few small-town museums are this broad in scope. The Old Jail's pre-





The Old Jail Art Center, right, contains works from pre-Columbian pottery to modern paintings.

Columbian collection of artifacts—jars, bowls, animal artifacts, vessels, ceremonial plates and votive figures—spans from 1000 B.C. through A.D. 1500. Among the numerous cultures represented are Chimu, Colima, Huastec, Jalisco, Maya, Mixtec, Nayarit and Teotihuacan. An impressive Asian collection includes 37 terra-cotta tomb figures from the Chinese Han and T'ang Dynasty (202 B.C. to A.D. 906) as well as 17th- to 19th-century Japanese prints and silkscreens.

The largest space is devoted to 20th-century American and European masters—the likes of John Marin, John Sloan, Charles Demuth, Thomas Hart Benton, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Paul Klee, Amedeo Modigliani, Pablo Picasso, Joan Miro and others. The museum houses a permanent collection of nearly 1,900 works of art.

Refurbished in 1989, the old jail was the first permanent public building in Shackelford County.

YOUNG GIRL WITH BRAIDS, 1918, AMADEO MODIGLIANI, ITALIAN (1884 - 1920), OIL ON CANVAS MOUNTED ON BOARD, GIFT OF BILL BOMAR, (1981.124). STANDING DOG, N.D., UNKNOWN ARTIST, COLIMA, LATE PRE-CLASSIC (600 B.C. - A.D. 300), POTTERY, GIFT OF WILLIAM O. GROSS JR., (1986.056)



#### WHILE YOU'RE THERE

**FORT GRIFFIN GENERAL MERCHANDISE RESTAURANT**, 525 U.S. Hwy. 180 West, (325) 762-3034. Restored general store originally built in 1907. Customer favorites include a shrimp special Thursday night and mesquite-grilled Black Angus steaks.

**ICE HOUSE RESTAURANT**, 200 S. Second St., (325) 762-3287. Tex-Mex and Santa Fe-style Mexican dishes along with mesquite-grilled steaks and chicken.

**OLE NAIL HOUSE INN**, 357 S. Third St., (325) 762-2928 or 1-800-245-5163. Prairie-style house built in 1914. Three

upstairs guest rooms with private baths. Two have private glassed-in sun porches. Cottage has a full kitchen and living room. Gourmet breakfast included. Located on the square across from the courthouse.

**STASNEY'S COOK RANCH**, 5.5 miles north of Albany off FM 1084, (325) 762-2313 or 1-888-762-2999. Historic 25,000-acre ranch. Two cabins are replicas of officers' quarters at Fort Griffin and Fort Concho. The lodge and adjacent bunkhouse sleep up to 24 people. Meals extra. Hiking and biking trails, wildlife tours and fishing on site.

#### XIT MUSEUM

##### DALHART

XIT MUSEUM, 108 EAST 5TH ST., DALHART.  
(806) 244-5390, XITMUSEUM.COM.  
TUESDAYS-SATURDAYS, 9 TO 5. ADMISSION FREE.  
AREA SERVED BY RITA BLANCA EC.

**T**HE NAME OF THE XIT MUSEUM in Dalhart (population 7,500) is somewhat deceptive. The first exhibit you encounter is about the XIT Ranch, but there is much,



much more. The museum is housed in a handsome Spanish-style building dating from 1929, a former auto dealership. Its galleries are spacious and spotless. There's even a tiny, quaint wedding chapel that couples can rent for a wedding with a short list of attendees.

The XIT Ranch, whose 3 million acres made it the largest fenced ranch in the world, has its origins in a land deal engineered by the State of Texas in the 1870s to finance the building of the state capitol. A Chicago syndicate accepted the land as payment for the construction work and then ran cattle on it until they could sell it at a profit; the last parcel was finally sold in 1963. The museum tells this story in a series of cases filled with compelling artifacts, including the hide of a steer branded with the XIT brand and a second hide autographed by former XIT cowboys at a 1936 reunion (one signed it in a shaky, old man's hand, "Billie Jarrett 1889"). The centerpiece of this exhibit is an 8x10-foot model of the XIT's Buffalo Springs headquarters.

But there is also a natural history gallery that features an enormous stuffed snowy owl with outspread wings and a frightening mountain lion killed 10 miles north of town in 1985, as well as a fascinating collection of skeletons of local fauna. Beyond that is a transportation collection that includes a three-seated surrey used in Springer, New Mexico, and a Jungster II airplane built by a local man, an ex-World War II pilot, in the 1970s. Another gallery is dominated by a Star windmill with a 10-foot wooden wheel and includes photographs from the Texas A&M University archives of rural women at work. One photo shows a woman in Grand Prairie contemplating a cabinet filled with 850 jars of preserves she has just put up.

The museum has an active program of bringing in traveling exhibits. Every small-town museum has to have eccentric exhibits, and



The wedding chapel at the XIT Museum.

the XIT Museum fills this requirement with a collection of 800 miniature elephants and a map of the United States made out of postage stamps.

The museum's archives include 150,000 negatives dating to the 1920s from two Dalhart photo studios, as well as business records from local ranches. The XIT Museum is operated by the Dallam-Hartley Counties Historical Association.

#### WHILE YOU'RE THERE

**BAR-H STEAKHOUSE**, 1010 Hwy. 54 East, (806) 244-3813. Western-style atmosphere. Grilled steaks, fish, chicken and burgers. Weekly noon buffet, 32-item salad bar, homemade soup.

**EXTREME CUISINE**, 416 Denrock Ave., (806) 244-3287. Menu changes daily and features a mix of Asian, French, Hungarian, Spanish and/or American fare, which always includes burgers, steaks, sandwiches and soups. "You never know what to expect," says chef/owner Billy Thorne.

**BEST WESTERN NURSANICKEL MOTEL**, 102 Scott St., (806) 244-5637. Free continental

breakfast. Microwaves and refrigerators in most rooms. Outdoor pool. **HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS**, 801 Liberal St., (806) 249-1145. Free continental breakfast. Rooms include microwave, refrigerator and VCR. Fitness center and indoor pool.

### SAN ANGELO MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

#### SAN ANGELO

SAN ANGELO MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ONE LOVE ST., SAN ANGELO. (325) 653-3333, SAMFA.ORG. TUESDAYS-SATURDAYS, 10 TO 4; SUNDAYS, 1 TO 4. ADMISSION \$2 FOR ADULTS; \$1 FOR CHILDREN AND SENIOR CITIZENS; FREE FOR MILITARY. AREA SERVED BY CONCHO VALLEY EC.

**T**HE FIRST THING YOU'LL NOTICE when you arrive at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts (SAMFA) is the unique shape of the building. The concave sweep of the copper-clad roof has been described as resembling a saddle or a Conestoga covered wagon, and has sparked commentary from art critics and architectural publications since its opening in 1985.

Inside you'll find a collection that belies the remote West Texas location and the size of San Angelo, population 89,000, a four-hour drive from San Antonio, the nearest metropolitan area. The museum has three galleries, a large rooftop sculpture terrace, a research library and education wing, and a meeting room for 300. The Children's Art Museum sits two blocks away at the historic Cactus Hotel.

SAMFA was originally housed (beginning in 1985) in the Quartermaster Storehouse of Fort Concho National Historic Landmark. In 1994, fundraising began to build a new site on the Concho River opposite downtown. The campaign was so successful that donations exceeded the \$6.5 million goal by \$700,000. The new building opened in 1999.

The National Ceramic Competition, started at the museum in 1986,



The architecture of the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts is said to resemble a Conestoga wagon.

has been called the “premier clay show in America” by *Ceramics Monthly*. Due to its growing size and popularity, the competition is held each April of even-numbered years.

The museum has received prestigious national honors for its community service, bringing to life its tenet of “not just art on the walls, but art in our lives.” SAMFA charges only a nominal membership fee to keep the museum accessible to all, hosts large-scale free public events for families, and lends artwork to outlying towns. A strong emphasis is placed on outreach programs including the Boys & Girls Club, mentally retarded adults through the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, children’s summer art programs, “Art as a Third Language” for students learning English as a second language, and in-service training for teachers.

#### WHILE YOU’RE THERE

**ENRIQUE’S RESTAURANT & CANTINA**, 34 W. Avenue D, (325) 653-8222. Located at the Plaza, just a short stroll from Fort Concho National Historic Landmark. Serving Mexican food for more than 30 years.

**ZENTNER’S DAUGHTER STEAKHOUSE**, 1901 Knickerbocker, (325) 949-2821. Great steaks plus chicken-fried steaks, crab, shrimp, catfish and burgers.

**INN AT THE ART CENTER B&B**, 2503 Martin Luther King, (325) 658-3333 or 1-866-557-5337. Three guest quarters nestled among artisans’ studios at the Chicken Farm Art Center. Private entrances and baths. Breakfast included.

**SAN ANGELO STATE PARK**, northwest of San Angelo, off FM 2288, (325) 949-4757. Six enclosed, air-conditioned and heated mini-cabins. Facilities for tent and RV camping.

#### MUSEUMS OF PORT ISABEL

##### PORT ISABEL

MUSEUMS OF PORT ISABEL, 317 E. RAILROAD AVE., PORT ISABEL. (956) 943-7602, [PORTISABELMUSEUMS.COM](http://PORTISABELMUSEUMS.COM).  
LIGHTHOUSE: 9 TO 5 DAILY. MUSEUMS: TUESDAYS-SATURDAYS, 10 TO 4. THREE-SITE ADMISSION \$7; \$5 SENIORS. SINGLE SITE: \$3, \$2. AREA SERVED BY MAGIC VALLEY EC.

**C**OMBINE SUNKEN TREASURE SHIPS, cannonballs and swords from a nearby international battlefield, and the only Texas lighthouse open to the public, and you have the Museums of Port Isabel. The three small facilities, all new or renovated in recent years, spotlight the ships and people who transformed the southernmost corner of Texas.

Heavy with silver from Mexico’s

mines, three Spanish ships sank in a storm north of Port Isabel in 1554. Those ships, and the recovery of a wreck in 1967, are featured in the Treasures of the Gulf Museum. A large backlit image of a storm-tossed galleon with sails billowing sets the stage for the artifacts—water casks, sailors’ hammocks and cannons. Reach into 16 small cubbies to identify items found on sailing ships—rope, leather, (fool’s) gold. In the Children’s Discovery Lab, kids jump at the chance to try on a Spanish-style helmet and buckler, along with reproductions of aprons, bonnets and jackets from the 1500s.

Next door, a roof-to-sidewalk fish mural (painted by a fisherman in 1906) identifies the Port Isabel Historical Museum, once a 19th-century general store. Inside, the museum focuses on the village of El Fronton de Santa Isabel, founded in 1839 and thrust into the limelight in 1846 when General Zachary Taylor established Fort Polk here. The first battle of the Mexican-American War was fought nearby. Palo Alto battlefield debris—buckles, musket balls, powder flasks—fill the upper floor, along with displays of spurs, flintlock rifles, cannon balls, wool uniforms and well-illustrated exhibits of Mexican and American army camp life.

Downstairs, visitors journey



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Port Isabel Lighthouse.

through Port Isabel's past, through its days as a military harbor during the Civil War, then as Brownsville's port, and now as a shrimp boat basin. Large photographs of the 1880s and beyond, along with three mini-theaters running short videos, provide glimpses into the town's rowdy days, its classy old hotels, and its folk healers.

Across the street from its sister museums, the Port Isabel Lighthouse, built in 1852, includes a keeper's cottage with exhibits.

#### WHILE YOU'RE THERE

**MARCELLO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT**, 110 N. Tarnava St., (956) 943-7611. Serving Italian cuisine, including brick-oven baked pizza, salads, pastas, veal, chicken and seafood dishes.

**PIRATE'S LANDING RESTAURANT**, 110 N. Garcia St., (956) 943-3663. Overlooks Laguna

Madre, with view of South Padre Island and Gulf of Mexico. Adjacent to Port Isabel Lighthouse. Specializes in fresh seafood.

**CASA ROSA INN**, 761 Hwy. 100, (956) 943-2052. Newly built hotel with 44 rooms, each with microwave and mini-refrigerator. Outdoor pool.

**QUEEN ISABEL INN**, 300 Garcia St., (956) 943-1468 or 1-800-943-1468. Caesar Kleberg built this hotel in 1906, the area's first. Overlooks Laguna Madre Bay. One- and two-bedroom suites with queen-size beds and DVD-VCR players. Some rooms have fully equipped kitchens.

### MUSEUM OF THE COASTAL BEND

#### VICTORIA

MUSEUM OF THE COASTAL BEND, VICTORIA COLLEGE, 2200 E. RED RIVER, VICTORIA. (361) 582-2511, [MUSEUMOFTHECOASTALBEND.ORG](http://MUSEUMOFTHECOASTALBEND.ORG). TUESDAYS-SATURDAYS, 10 TO 4. ADMISSION \$3.50 FOR ADULTS; \$2.50 FOR SENIOR CITIZENS; CHILDREN UNDER 4 AND STUDENTS FREE. AREA SERVED BY VICTORIA EC.

**T**HE MUSEUM OF THE COASTAL Bend, on the campus of Victoria College in Victoria, is the newest of the small museums we visited. Dedicated in 2003, the museum is organized in "loggias," or small, partially enclosed exhibit areas where the visitor experiences a sense of immersion, one chapter at a time, in the history of this part of Texas. The museum's permanent exhibits include loggias focusing on the French Fort St. Louis, the Presidio La Bahia, the Native American presence and ancient artifacts.

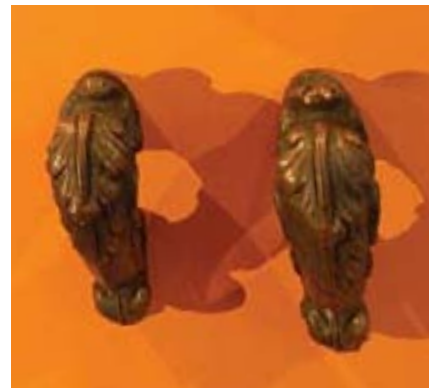
The museum's centerpiece is a display of seven of the eight cannons brought to Texas in 1685 by the French explorer La Salle, who hoped to displace the Spanish occupiers and claim the territory for France. But La Salle's ships sank. His band of would-be colonists dwindled from 150 to 40 in two years. Plagued by disease and starvation, attacked by native

Karankawa Indians, and victimized by La Salle's poor leadership and legendary arrogance, the surviving settlers fled. Their story and some of what they left behind is preserved in the museum.

One of La Salle's sunken ships, the Belle, was excavated in 1996-97 from the bottom of Matagorda Bay. The remarkable project inspired the museum's interactive archaeology lab where knowledgeable volunteers guide visitors through the experience of locating an excavation site, planning the dig, and documenting the artifacts.

The children's section is a popular destination for school groups.

Museum Director Annette Musgrave is especially proud of the museum's visitor-friendly environment. "We have such a personal touch," she says. "Our volunteers will



Artifacts rescued from the Belle.

walk you through the exhibits, tell you about the artifacts, even offer a cup of coffee."

In fact, the museum does such a good job of making history accessible, you almost feel as if La Salle himself could appear. He'd probably have something to say about his assassination at the hands of his own men.

#### WHILE YOU'RE THERE

**FOSSATI'S DELICATESSEN**, 302 S. Main St., (361) 576-3354. Originally opened in 1882. Vintage photos on walls pay tribute to long-running businesses. Serves soups, salads, sandwiches,





Museum of the Coastal Bend.

spaghetti and desserts.

**SIESTA RESTAURANT**, 2505 Houston Hwy., (361) 578-9927. Owned by the Treviño family, who've been in the restaurant business since 1956. Huge menu features soups, salads, tacos, quesadillas, enchiladas, steaks, shrimp, pork chops, fajitas and combination dinners.

**FRIENDLY OAKS B&B**, 210 E. Juan Linn St., (361) 575-0000. Four guest rooms in a 1915 home located in the historic Street of Ten Friends district. Full

gourmet breakfast served on veranda, weather permitting.

**THE INN ON MAIN**, 315 N. Main St., (361) 580-2794. Originally built in 1875 as a home for a Victorian family. Moved to present location where it was restored. Four private suites, each with sitting room, bedroom and bath. Rooms share fully equipped kitchen. Continental breakfast served.

## W.K. GORDON CENTER FOR INDUSTRIAL HISTORY OF TEXAS

### THURBER

W.K. GORDON CENTER FOR INDUSTRIAL HISTORY OF TEXAS, EXIT 367, INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 20, THURBER. (254) 968-1886, TARLETON.EDU/~GORDONCENTER. TUESDAYS-SATURDAYS, 10 TO 4; SUNDAYS, 1 TO 4. ADMISSION \$4; CHILDREN 6 TO 12, \$2; CHILDREN UNDER 6 FREE. AREA SERVED BY UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES.

**I**F IT WERE NOT FOR THE TALL BRICK smokestack on the north side of the interstate, you could drive through Thurber (population



W.K. Gordon Sr.

40), about halfway between Fort Worth and Abilene, without knowing you were there, but 8,000 people lived there in 1918, many of them Italian and Polish coal miners. Back then Thurber was a company town owned by the Texas and Pacific Coal Company, of which W.K. Gordon, for whom the museum is named, was the manager. The museum tells the story of Thurber's brief history, from the discovery of coal there in 1886 through the development of a brick-manufacturing plant in the early 1900s (Fort Worth's streets were paved with Thurber brick), to its demise in the 1920s.

The W.K. Gordon Center is a perfect example of the "new museum," in which interactive devices designed to appeal to a variety of learning styles take precedence over artifacts and labels. The concept was derived from the popular science centers of the 1970s and '80s. Unlike those centers, which had a tendency to resemble funhouses, the Gordon Center has a clear story line and a tightly focused mission. Visitors come away with a painless lesson on how Thurber once flourished and why it no longer does.

The museum is brighter and more cheerful than the mine shafts that underlie it, although a realistic, full-scale mannequin of a miner lying on his side in a low tunnel

Some of the cannons that fortified the La Salle colony.





Above: Thurber general store.  
Left: Architectural rendering of the Industrial Museum.

chipping away at a coal face gives a good idea of how strenuous and dangerous the work was. The designers, Murphy and Orr of Atlanta, employed bright colors, false building fronts, old photographs and lots of sound to recreate daily life in Thurber in the early 1900s. You can listen to the town band play a concert from a bandstand, look into a drugstore while the druggist describes his stock of goods and a soda jerk concocts sodas in the background, listen to miners (or at least actors impersonating miners) talk about their lives, or even bring in a thundering gusher by pushing a button on a reconstruction of the timber derrick over McClesky #1. (W.K. Gordon discovered the Ranger Oil Field.)

Among the impressive artifacts is

the battered Model-T truck that Gordon used in his field inspections.

The center, opened in 2002, is operated by Tarleton State University at Stephenville.

#### WHILE YOU'RE THERE

**NEW YORK HILL RESTAURANT**, 292 CR 107 (Exit 367 via I-20), (254) 672-5848. Family-owned restaurant overlooking Thurber. Chock-full of artifacts and historic photos. Breakfast, lunch and dinner served. Menu features omelets, cinnamon rolls, hot cakes, steaks, shrimp, Mexican fare and sandwiches.

**SMOKESTACK RESTAURANT**, 239 Private Road 741 (Exit 367 via I-20), (254) 672-5560. Breakfast, lunch and dinner served. Daily specials. Steaks, chicken-fried steak, burgers and sandwiches.

**LONGHORN INN**, State Highway 108, (Exit 370 via I-20), (254) 693-8277. Nineteen rooms. Known for a gift shop that sells the original Dr Pepper—from Dublin—and Dublin Dr Pepper cake mixes.

**RAMADA INN**, 2501 I-20 East (Exit 343), Eastland, (254) 629-2655. Free continental breakfast. Pool.

## CARSON COUNTY SQUARE HOUSE MUSEUM

### PANHANDLE

CARSON COUNTY SQUARE HOUSE MUSEUM,  
503 ELSIE AVE., PANHANDLE. (806) 537-3524,  
SQUAREHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG. MONDAYS-SATURDAYS,  
9 TO 5; SUNDAYS, 1 TO 5. ADMISSION FREE.

**W**HEN THE MUSEUM'S FOUNDER, Jo Randel, decided that the town of Panhandle should have a museum, she telephoned the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and the director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art to solicit their advice. Forty years later, visitors can see that she made great use of their expertise.

The museum was one of the first in the nation to be accredited by the American Association of Museums and is certainly the smallest. Its heart is the Square House itself, a 24x24-foot structure built in the 1880s. Its two rooms chronicle the settlement of the northern Panhandle.

The museum also includes, in separate buildings, a series of period rooms depicting home, school and church life in the Panhandle; a superb local wildlife display; a recreated general store, bank, dentist's office, blacksmith shop and print shop, all using artifacts from local businesses; a fine collection of Native American art and works by local artists; a replica of a dugout house; a church; and a restored Santa Fe caboose.

The labels on the history exhibits are clear and mercifully short, but the unspoken message of the artifacts in the cases is even more powerful: the contrast between the aspirations toward refinement that the first settlers of the High Plains had and the reality of their harsh surroundings. You can see a silver salt shaker that was used in a dugout home; a set of amber cut glass that was a wedding present to one of the first settlers of White Deer; and, most poignant of all, a velvet Little Lord Fauntleroy



# TAME YOUR TREES

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- If a tree or a large branch is touching or falls on an electric line, call your electric cooperative immediately. Tree sap is an excellent conductor of electricity, so a downed branch on a line is an electrocution hazard as well as a fire hazard.
- Never trim trees that grow close to power lines; that is a job for professionals. Call your electric co-op for assistance and guidance.
- Don't allow children to climb trees or build tree houses close to power lines.
- When planting a tree, plan ahead. A tiny tree may eventually grow large enough to damage power lines and possibly interrupt power during storms. At maturity, your trees should not be within 10 feet of a power line.
- Plant appropriate distances from all power lines—those along the street or right-of-way, as well as those running to your home and outbuildings.



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The Carson County Square House Museum is a gem of the Panhandle.

suit, complete with knee breeches and satin trim, that was worn by a young boy in Panhandle in 1892.

Museum slide shows, some of them produced by the Smithsonian Institution, and traveling trunks on subjects ranging from the Chinese Bronze Age to the Kiowa calendar go to local schools. An auditorium and education building are the focal point for lectures and art/craft classes, and two vans take senior citizens to cultural events in Amarillo, 60 miles away.

#### WHILE YOU'RE THERE

**DAIRY QUEEN**, Highway 60 East, (806) 537-3903. The Texas small-town favorite hangout for burgers, steak fingers, hot dogs, salads, shakes and cones.

**FAT TONY'S**, Highway 60 West, (806) 537-3406. Lunch and dinner on weekdays. Appetizers, salads, Mexican food, steaks, pork chops, chicken, catfish, shrimp and burgers.

**DOUBLE N MOTEL**, 400 Hwy. 60, (806)

537-3443. Eighteen rooms, some with kitchenettes.

**TEXAN HOTEL**, 117 E. Broadway, (806) 537-3372. Quaint hotel built in 1926. Four B&B guest rooms. Period furniture from 1920s and '30s. Continental breakfast.

#### TEXAS FORESTRY MUSEUM

##### LUFKIN

TEXAS FORESTRY MUSEUM, 1905 ATKINSON DR., LUFKIN. (936) 632-9535, TREETEXAS.COM. MONDAYS-SATURDAYS, 10 TO 5; SUNDAYS, 1 TO 5. ADMISSION FREE. DONATIONS ENCOURAGED.

**I**T'S NOT SURPRISING THAT THE TEXAS Forestry Museum sits smack-dab in a tall pine forest, a setting where old Smokey the Bear would be quite at home. So at home, in fact, that America's most famous bear held his 60th birthday celebration here last August.

The museum is the only one of its kind in the state, preserving the legacy of the people, places and products

of Texas' 14 million acres of East Texas Piney Woods. Although Texas' timber industry brought more money to the state's economy than any other industry in the 1890s, a tree is hardly as recognizable a Texas icon as a cowboy or an oil well. Yet even today, wood products are the state's third-ranking agricultural commodity, and sawmills, logging railroads and modern forest management continue to influence East Texas culture.

The museum has four main exhibit areas, including outdoor displays and a wildscape trail. The forest history wing highlights tools and equipment relating to logging, including a 20-ton steam engine that powered a sawmill. Another wing houses a fire lookout tower cab.

The newest exhibit space takes a look at the story of paper, from tree to finished product. The paper mill room features Southland Mills, one of the companies that opened a new industry for the South: newsprint made from southern yellow pine.



A sawmill town depot, complete with logging locomotive, log loader and log car, and caboose, anchors the outdoor exhibits, which emphasize the importance of railroads to the lumber industry, as well as the establishment of commerce centers throughout East Texas.

#### WHILE YOU'RE THERE

**BODACIOUS BAR-B-Q**, 521 S. Timberland, (936) 637-6000. Lunch and dinner. Ribs, chopped and sliced beef, turkey, pork and sausage served with traditional barbecue trimmings. Peach cobbler and pecan pie.

**COTTON PATCH**, 3207 S. First St., (936) 639-4949. Part of a regional chain that offers soups, salads, burgers, chicken, steaks, pork chops, catfish, salmon, fresh vegetables, banana pudding, pies and cobblers.

**STORYBOOK INN B&B**, 3603 Ted Trout Dr.,



This eight-wheeled logging wagon was designed to turn corners.

(936) 875-5580. Stately, two-story Victorian home. Two upstairs guest rooms share a bath. Spacious suite

downstairs has its own bath with a hot tub. Robes provided. Hearty country breakfast served.



Photo courtesy Texas State Library & Archives Commission

## TEXAS: WHERE THE PAST IS ALWAYS PRESENT.



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The doctor's office, print shop and the Arnold outhouse at the Depot Museum.

**WISTERIA HIDEAWAY B&B**, 3458 Ted Trout Dr., (936) 875-2914. Two-story colonial home built in 1939 brims with Southern charm. Large master suite has small refrigerator and private bath with full-size hot tub. Three smaller guest rooms available. Full breakfast served.

## DEPOT MUSEUM HENDERSON

DEPOT MUSEUM, 514 N. HIGH ST., HENDERSON.  
(903) 657-4303, DEPOTMUSEUM.COM.  
MONDAYS-FRIDAYS, 9 TO 12 AND 1 TO 5;  
SATURDAYS, 9 TO 1. ADMISSION \$2  
FOR ADULTS; \$1 FOR CHILDREN.  
AREA SERVED BY RUSK COUNTY EC.

ONE OF THE STATE'S MOST FAMOUS train routes runs through the Piney Woods from Rusk to Palestine. But train lovers will have to travel farther northeast to find the Depot Museum in Henderson, an off-the-beaten-track destination that features a complex of historical buildings, including a restored train depot.

The Depot Museum's headquarters and visitors' center is housed in the Arnold Building, where a video introduces guests to the early residents of Rusk County—an intriguing blend of Native Americans, settlers and oil-hungry wildcatters. Missouri Pacific built the depot in 1901, and it now showcases authentically restored offices and waiting rooms. The 1942

Missouri Pacific caboose was the traveling home of railroad workers.

Another building on the museum grounds is the 1884 Beall-Ross Home, the birthplace of two of the founders of Beall's Department Store. Other buildings include the T.J. Walling cabin, a barn outfitted with broom-making machinery, an 1880 doctor's office, the Parks print shop, and a cotton warehouse that has been transformed into a hands-on children's center with 200 activities.

Perhaps the most interesting site at the Depot Museum is the operational syrup mill, home of the annual Heritage Syrup Festival held on the second Saturday in November. Over 30 folk artists display their wares amid folk music and regional food booths. The highlight of the festival is a day of old-time syrup-making demonstrations.

The Depot Museum's website quotes Ralph Rinsler of the Smithsonian Institution: "There are two ways of preserving folk culture. You can pickle it and put it on the shelf, or you can share the seeds." Come pick up your share of the seeds in Henderson.

### WHILE YOU'RE THERE

**CAPTAIN'S FISH HOUSE**, 214 U.S. Hwy. 79 North, (903) 657-7077. Fish, steaks and more. Quality seafood fresh from the market.

**HAZEL'S DOWN HOME COOKING**, U.S. Hwy. 79

North, (903) 657-9286. Buffet breakfast and lunch. Open 4:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m., Monday-Saturday.

**HERSCHEL'S FAMILY RESTAURANT**, 1607 U.S. Hwy. 79 South, (903) 657-7811. Breakfast, lunch and dinner. Menu features eggs, pancakes, burgers, curly fries and onion rings, lunch specials, chicken-fried steak, chicken strips, and steak fingers.



Caboose at the Depot Museum.

**TASTE OF EAST TEXAS**, 105 E. Main St., (903) 657-0065. Specializing in homemade soups, salads and sandwiches. Homemade desserts daily. Open 11 to 3. Located in the Main Street Gallery.

**HERITAGE HOUSE OF HENDERSON**, 310 E. Main St., (903) 657-4797. Historic home built in 1913 and lavishly decorated. Four spacious guest rooms. Full Southern-style breakfast. Saturday high tea includes English scones with cream and jam. Hot tub and outdoor pool.

**STROUD HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST**, 7481 Hwy. 64 West, (903) 847-3000. Two-story home built in 1935 in nearby Joinsville. Traditional B&B with owners living on first floor. Four guest rooms.





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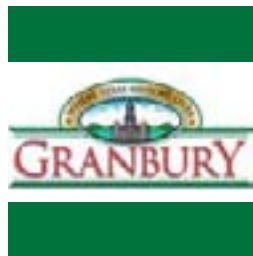
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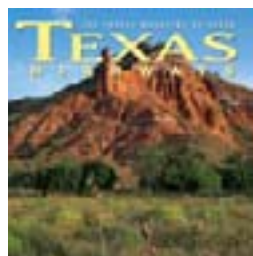
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## TRAVEL TEXAS

Folks in Texas know that the Lone Star State offers an endless supply of places to see and things to do. Some are tucked-away places worth a little detour. **SONORA**, west of the Hill Country, features a historic downtown. See the original Sutton County jail, hike the trails of Eaton Hill, or explore the mysterious **CAVERNS OF SONORA**. If South Texas is more your style, **WESLACO** is just minutes from Mexico's shopping and sight-seeing and the beautiful white sand beaches of South Padre Island. Weslaco is also **AMERICA'S BIRDLAND** with four Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail sites, with tropical and exotic species seldom seen anywhere else.

If you enjoy the frontier style of the Texas Panhandle, don't miss The **PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM** in **CANYON**, just south of Amarillo. Recently renovated, the museum is replete with the magic and drama of the Southern Great Plains. For Country and Western music fans, **THE TEXAS COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME** in **CARTHAGE** is a "must stop." Opened in 2002, the museum honors Texas' own country music legends.

If you're close to **GRANBURY**, find out why its town square was voted "Best Town Square in Texas" by *Texas Highways* magazine. It's the first square in Texas to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Stop for lunch or afternoon tea at **THE MERRY HEART TEA ROOM** and go back to a time when life was less hectic. Enjoy superb dining surrounded by fine antiques and authentic collectibles. Stay overnight at the **AMERICAN HERITAGE HOUSE** or the recently opened **INN ON LAKE GRANBURY**. American Heritage House offers a guest cottage and six spacious guest suites with beautifully restored antiques. Breakfast at the Inn will remind you of gathering around the table at your grandmother's house. The Inn on Lake Granbury features seven guest rooms overlooking the grounds and beautiful Lake Granbury. When you're ready to come out of your shell, go to the **SCARBOROUGH FAIRE RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL** in **WAXAHACHIE** for the thrills and excitement of a re-created 16th-century English Village, where birds of prey swoop and dive only inches above your head in response to the command of the Royal Falconer. Whenever you're deciding what to do or where to go, make **TEXAS HIGHWAYS** magazine your guide.

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CHARLES M. RUSSELL, THE WOLVES, 1914, GLENBOW MUSEUM, CALGARY, AB

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CARTHAGETEXAS.COM



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# MAKE A HOME INVENTORY IN CASE OF FIRE OR THEFT

It's a lot easier to fill out insurance forms or make a police report after a fire, flood or burglary if you keep a record of the things in your home.

**A** detailed inventory of your electronics—from digital cameras to high-definition TVs—will help your insurance company fill claims faster and help you keep better track of your possessions and their value.

## To get started:

- Write down as much information as you can get from each appliance, including its make, model, serial



number, purchase price, replacement price, warranty information, current appraisals and a photo of each item. If

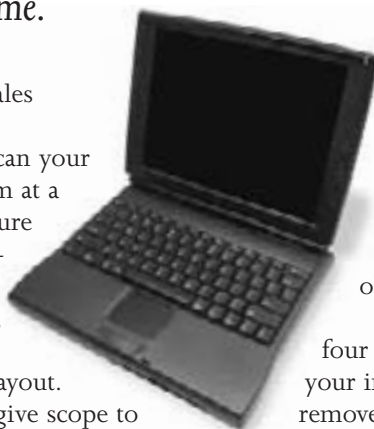
you have the sales receipt, keep it.

- Visually scan your home one room at a time to make sure you don't overlook anything. For each room, photograph or videotape the layout. This will help give scope to the size of a loss and add more detail to your written descriptions.

- Take group pictures of less-expensive items, such as CDs or handheld equipment, and individual snapshots of costly appliances, such as a stereo system or computer.

- In the photos, capture in detail any unusual features of your electronics, including serial numbers. Date every photo and videotape you make.

- Store your inventory in a secure place in your home in a fireproof safe. Store a copy of the inventory outside the home in a safe deposit box or at a



family member's home.

- Don't limit your inventory to electronic equipment.

Catalog other valued possessions, like jewelry, furniture, artwork and other important objects throughout your home.

- Update your inventory every four to six months. Add receipts to your inventory for new purchases and remove entries for items you no longer own.

Many people learn after fires or thefts that they had insufficient insurance coverage. A detailed, up-to-date home inventory will let you know how much your possessions are worth.



## LIFE SUPPORT: MAKE PLANS IN CASE OF OUTAGE

**F**or people who rely on life-support equipment at home, a blackout could be a matter of life or death. If someone in your home depends on an electrically operated health aid, take these steps to prepare for power outages.

- Plug electronic devices into surge suppressors and consider using uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) on important devices. A UPS acts as a battery backup and can provide electricity to some devices for several hours.

- Consider investing in a portable

generator that can power vital equipment in the event of an extended blackout. Consult with a qualified electrician before installing the device.

- Make arrangements to move in temporarily with friends or family, or even go to a hospital during a power failure if a generator is impractical.

- Keep an adequate supply of prescription drugs and medical equipment on hand in case a storm prevents you from going out for refills.

- Recharge cell phones frequently so you're not caught with a dead bat-

tery when the power goes out. Keep a corded land line operating in your home, as cordless phones need power and will not work without electricity.

- Let your electric cooperative know that someone in your home relies on electrically powered medical equipment so your home will receive priority treatment during a weather emergency.

- Report all outages quickly.

- Ask the electric cooperative to notify you in advance of scheduled outages.





## APRIL IS NATIONAL LAWN CARE MONTH

It's time to trim bushes and edge sidewalks. But first, dust the tools off, apply a little oil, and make sure they're still safe to use.

During April, which is National Lawn Care Month and the first full month of spring, take a few minutes to maintain your lawn equipment so it can help you maintain your lawn all summer.

- Buy the best extension cords you can afford. Replace any that show signs of wear. Be aware of where all extension cords are located while you're working in the yard so you don't accidentally snip one in half. And consider installing an outdoor ground-fault circuit interrupter outlet to protect yourself from shocks.

- Keep your electric edger oiled and rust-free. Remove any sticky residue with alcohol and scrape off rust with a metal brush.

- Sharpen the edger and lawn mower blades with a file or whetstone to keep them running efficiently. A dull lawn mower blade can cause the tips of your grass to brown.

- Store electric tools in a dry place. Excessive moisture can damage some power tools. If a tool gets wet while you're using it, dry it with a towel before putting it away.

- Before servicing an electric tool, remove its batteries or unplug it.

## DISHWASHERS PERFORM BETTER WITH A LITTLE TLC

Compared with other home appliances, dishwashers need little upkeep. But keeping yours clean and clog-free will ensure that it lasts as long as possible and keeps your dishes sparkling.

### Some tips:

- Over time, hard or iron-rich water can cause a film to form on the inside of your dishwasher. This buildup can clog the appliance's nozzles, leading them to spray grime onto your dishes. Prevent the clogs by using a dishwasher cleaning agent once a month.

- To unclog the nozzles, remove the arms and soak them in warm white vinegar to break up mineral deposits. Scrub each hole with a pipe cleaner. Fasten the arms properly when you reinstall them. Periodically check the nozzles for new clogs.

- Check the strainer in the bottom

or back of the machine. Remove any debris that's visible, and pour white vinegar directly over the strainer to break up any deposits.

- Spotty dishes are a sign that you're low on rinse agent. Refill the liquid once a month. If your dishwasher doesn't have a dispenser for a rinse agent, try it in tablet form.

- Damage to racks inside the dishwasher can discolor dishes. If you find the racks in yours are cracked, seal the cracks with a plastic coating material.

- Load knives and other sharp objects with the points down to avoid damage to the dishwasher's gaskets and reduce your risk of cutting your hands when unloading.

- Keep paintbrushes, air filters and car parts out of the dishwasher. The machine is called a dishwasher for a reason!

## USE CAUTION WITH HAIR DRYERS

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that most consumers aren't aware that a hair dryer can be deadly if it's used or stored improperly.

### Some safety tips:

- A hair dryer can deliver a fatal shock to a person who runs it in a shower or bath, even if it never touches the water. If you're holding a plugged-in blow dryer—even if it's not turned on—and you touch the water, it can electrocute you.

- Read all the instructions and warning labels on your hair dryer before you use it. Unplug the dryer when you're finished with it.

- Clean hair and fuzz from the air intakes.

- Keep the hair dryer off of the bed, couch or carpeting when it's turned on. Fabric can block air open-

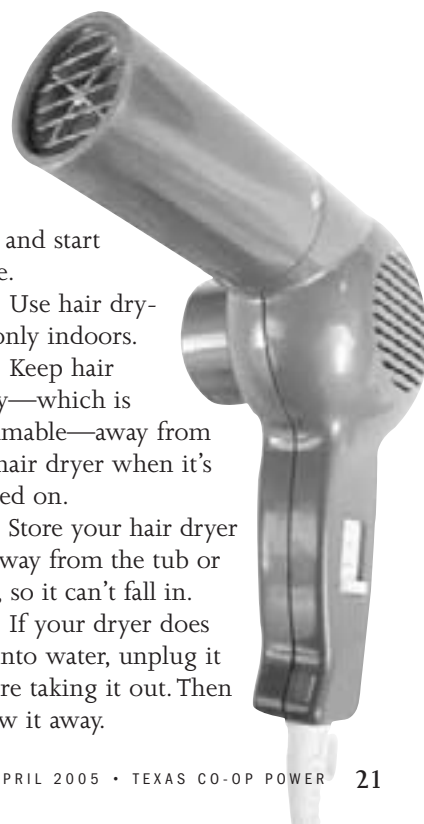
ings and start a fire.

- Use hair dryers only indoors.

- Keep hair spray—which is flammable—away from the hair dryer when it's turned on.

- Store your hair dryer far away from the tub or sink, so it can't fall in.

- If your dryer does fall into water, unplug it before taking it out. Then throw it away.



# Black Blizzard

BY LOUIE BOND

**R**oiling with violent turbulence, a black wall 8,000 feet high loomed in the wide skies above the people of the Texas Panhandle one fateful spring day in 1935. Those who hurried home to huddle and pray with their families thought it was the end of the world.

But what rained down from the heavens was neither precipitation nor Judgement Day. It was dust, tons upon tons of minute particles, lifted by a polar continental air mass, then swirled by 60-mile-an-hour winds onto parched land that ached for moisture. The dust blotted out the sun

On the 14th day of April of 1935,  
There struck the worst of dust storms  
that ever filled the sky.  
You could see the dust storm comin',  
the cloud looked deathlike black,  
And through our mighty nation,  
it left a dreadful track.  
Our relatives were huddled  
into their oil boom shacks,  
And the children they was cryin'  
as it whistled through the cracks.  
And the family it was crowded  
into their little room,  
They thought the world had ended,  
and they thought it was their doom.

Texas in the mid-'30s, was of such Biblical proportions that it earned the ominous title, "Black Sunday." Indeed, the term "Dust Bowl" was first coined after Black Sunday when an Associated Press reporter wrote, "Three little words achingly familiar on the Western farmer's tongue rule life in the dust bowl of the continent—if it rains."

Black Sunday and the dozens of other dust storms were not a freak of nature or an act of God, but rather manmade disasters. Soil that had been overworked and overplowed across the heartland of the country, 100 million acres in all, lay stripped of grass and defenseless against the ravages of severe drought. In some places the soil was dry to a depth of 3 feet. The dirt, now the consistency of dust, was picked up and dumped by frequent windstorms and blanketed everything in its path.

People stuffed rags in cracks and around windows, but there was no stopping the dust. Fastidious farmers' wives futilely swept up bushel baskets of dirt inside their homes. The dust ruined automobile and tractor engines, suffocated and blinded wild and domesticated animals, and caused myriad eye and lung problems for residents.

"We live with the dust, eat it, sleep with it, watch it strip us of possessions and the hope of possessions," reported the *New Republic*. "The poetic uplift of spring fades into a phantom of the storied past. The nightmare is becoming life."

The impact was felt far beyond the Panhandle. During that same April, one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's advisors was in Washington, D.C., testifying before Congress about the need for soil conservation legislation. As he spoke, a dust storm hit the capital, dramatically blotting out the sun, accentuating his point. Congress passed the Soil Conservation Act later that year.

for hours, and filled the air so completely that people rightfully feared they would suffocate—some children "drowned" in dust drifts just yards from their homes.

"So long, it's been good to know you," wrote Dust Bowl balladeer and Pampa resident Woody Guthrie about Black Sunday. "This dusty old dust is a-gettin' my home, and I got to be drifting along." Like the others, Guthrie thought there was only time for goodbyes. The event was so remarkable, he later wrote yet another ballad about it, "Dust Storm Disaster."

"People caught in their own yards groped for the doorstep," a reporter wrote in the *New Republic*. "No light in the world can penetrate that swirling murk. The nightmare is deepest during the storm."

For Amarillo residents, 1935 brought a total of 908 hours of thick, choking dust storms; one storm raged for more than three days. Visibility was zero seven times that year, once for 11 straight hours.

The Great Dust Storm of April 14, 1935, although one of many that swept throughout the Midwest and



NOAA GEORGE E. MARSH ALBUM



# Stay Away From Wires, Bozo

**N**o, Marvin, you got it wrong again. Birds can land on insulated electric wires without harm because they don't complete a circuit. The electricity has better paths to follow.

For a bird to be shocked, there must be little or no insulation on the wire (sometimes true).

The bird must simultaneously contact the bare wire and a conductor providing a path to the ground, or another conductor with a different electric potential (a second phase of AC current, for example). Most high lines are sufficiently separated to prevent this kind of contact, although some of the largest birds may have a wingspan broad enough to touch two wires at once.

Marvin, however, is stepping onto the wire from a pole that touches the ground. The pole completes the circuit, so the electric current zaps Marvin on its way to the ground. A few glued-on tail feathers are no protection whatsoever.

We can't say it too often: Stay away from electric wires, whether they are hanging from poles or lying on the ground.

- If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it.

- If someone is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. Call 911 instead.

- Don't try to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick.

- Don't ride your bicycle over downed power lines.

- If you and your parents are in your car and it is in contact with a downed line, stay in your car. Honk your horn for help but tell others to stay away from your vehicle. Call 911 if you have a cell phone or ask passers-by to do it.

Cartoonist Keith Graves is a popular artist and author of children's books. He lives in Austin with his wife, Nancy, and the twins, Max and Emma.





# *Saving the* **DAY**



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STORY BY SPIKE GILLESPIE • ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN WILSON



**Once upon a time—it's impossible to say precisely what time it was—humans were out of synch as a matter of course. Time at that time was measured by sundial—an eyeball-reliant system. It took a long time before time as we know it was standardized, so that 5 o'clock in one town was the same time as 5 o'clock the next town over. In fact, it hasn't even been 200 years since time became ruled by government regulations rather than that big yellow thing in the sky.**

Not surprisingly, those punctuality fiends, the Brits, are credited with the development and implementation of Standard Time. The purpose for this insistence on synchronicity was reasonable enough: Those running the railways wanted trains to run on time. Prior to standardized time, with each town only estimating what time it was, scheduling problems were commonplace.

So-called London Time was first adopted in 1840. Within 15 years, nearly everyone in England was complying except the legal system, which adhered to "local time" until the summer of 1880. Americans and Canadians began to follow suit three years later. Not everyone was eager to hop on the train, so to speak. Detroit held out until 1905, at which point the town finally settled for the standardized Central Time.

Next came the adoption of time zones in the United States, courtesy of the Standard Time Act of 1918. So it might seem that, finally, though time wasn't standing still, at least it was moving along at a steady, measurable pace and that was that. But no. Because meanwhile, back in Europe in 1916, Germany and Austria started setting clocks forward one hour in April and back one hour in October.

The point was to save daylight—not literally save the stuff, but save it for later in the day since this would save energy. Over a dozen continental countries wasted no time in following suit. Britain also agreed it was time to save time, as did Australia, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. So up they sprang in spring and back they fell in fall.

Credit for the original idea of time saving is generally attributed to our own Benjamin Franklin who, when not contemplating lightning, was busy contemplating light. Franklin, on duty as an American delegate in Paris, started thinking about how much money Parisians might save if they woke up with the sun, rather than sleeping through the morning (courtesy of

light-blocking shutters) and staying up late at night, which required using artificial light in the form of candles.

In 1784, at the age of 78, Franklin wrote the essay, "An Economical Project," outlining his thoughts in a humorous fashion. He suggested taxing shutters and rationing candles to get the Parisians out of bed before noon. Although his ideas amused and even intrigued some folks, no serious motion was made to implement Franklin's idea to save light.

Back in the United States, some folks also agreed it would be good to save light. The country was placed on Daylight-Saving Time for the remainder of World War I. Farmers in particular were not fans of the mandate.

In 1919, it was decided that whether or not to comply with Daylight-Saving Time should be left up to local citizens. Some states and cities stuck with the plan that was in place, others decided to revert to Standard Time. Because of World War II, Franklin Roosevelt mandated Daylight-Saving Time all year, every year, from early 1942 through the fall of 1945. It was referred to as War Time.

This plan was implemented for the same reasons Europe had: energy conservation. Folks tend to use a lot of energy for light in the evenings. By lengthening natural evening light, not only is less energy used because less artificial light is used, but also there's the temptation to stay outside and use your own energy throwing a ball or running or watching the sunset instead of sitting inside running appliances.

After World War II, time marched on to different drummers. With the federal requirement lifted, to save daylight time or not to save daylight time again became local prerogative.

Congress passed and Lyndon Johnson signed the Uniform Time Act of 1966, stating those who did choose to use Daylight-Saving Time would begin doing so on the last Sunday of April and end on the first Sunday of Octo-

ber. But states were allowed to pass laws exempting themselves.

Presidential clock setting returned in 1974. On January 4, Richard Nixon placed his John Hancock on the dotted line and the Daylight-Saving Time Energy Act of 1973 became law, lasting 15 solid months. The U.S. Department of Transportation determined that the goal to save energy was handily met, saving the equivalent of 10,000 barrels of oil daily during the life of the act. The same study concluded that all that saved daylight lowered the crime rate, saved lives, prevented injuries, and saved nearly \$30 million in traffic accident-related expenses. (A number of studies show that Daylight-Saving Time can save lives by making pedestrians more visible and thus four times less likely to be hit by a car.)

In 1986, Ronald Reagan moved the start of Daylight-Saving Time to the first Sunday of April. This is said to save the country 300,000 barrels of oil annually, which, considering the price of oil these days, is nothing to sneeze at.

Of course, America wouldn't be America if not for dissenting opinions and the right to act on one's own beliefs. Hawaii doesn't use Daylight-Saving Time and neither does Arizona, with the exception of one Navajo reservation.

Indiana lays claim to the wackiest response to the Daylight-Saving Time "competition." Seventy-seven counties there are on Standard Time all the time. The 15 remaining counties use Daylight-Saving Time, though 10 of these are Central Standard switching to Central Daylight, while the other five are Eastern Standard switching to Eastern Daylight. Thus, when traveling through Indiana, be sure to carry numerous watches.

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Spike Gillespie, who lives in Austin, has written two books of essays published by the University of Texas Press.

## What's That?

**I** like trying new foods, so this was a fun recipe topic for me—so many oddities to choose from! I decided to include recipes in which the main ingredient is unfamiliar. The first is a recipe for Quinoa Salad that my mother, Billie Coulton, gave me. This salad has a refreshing citrus flavor—it's one of my favorite foods in warm weather (see photo below). Quinoa (pronounced *keen-wah*) is an ancient grain that hails from the Andes Mountains in South America, but is becoming popular in North America. I hope you can find it in an upscale grocery store or a health food store; if not, you may order it online ([quinoa.net](http://quinoa.net)).

The Indian natives of the Andes Mountains called quinoa "the mother grain." It has a delicious nutty flavor and is extremely versatile—you can use it in the place of other grains in most recipes. It has more protein than any other grain, plus lots of calcium and essential amino acids, and is easily digestible. Quinoa has a high oil content, so always store it in the refrigerator.

My other strange recipe is from my mother-in-law, Ruth Oelrich. It has a funny-sounding name, but is quite delicious. It's called Frog-Eye Salad because of the acini de pepe pasta used in it. This pasta is the size and shape of peppercorns, and when cooked might be about the size of ... you guessed it ... frogs' eyes. Don't let that deter you, though. The salad is yummy. Be sure to

serve it with some kids around to get the most out of the name! You should be able to find this pasta in larger grocery stores.

### Quinoa Salad

1 3/4 cups water  
1 cup quinoa  
1 medium cucumber, peeled, seeded and diced  
4 green onions, finely sliced  
1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro  
3-4 tablespoons fresh lime juice  
2-3 tablespoons flaxseed oil (or light olive oil)  
Salt to taste

Rinse quinoa in strainer with mesh or tiny holes. Bring water to a boil in a 1-quart pot, then add quinoa. Reduce heat and simmer covered for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally until grain is tender. Remove from heat and let cool uncovered. Toss with all ingredients. Stir with fork to coat all the grains. Refrigerate at least 1 hour before serving. Serves 6.

Serving size: 1 large serving spoonful. Per serving: 178 calories, 4 grams protein, 8 grams fat, 23 grams carbohydrates, 189 milligrams sodium, 0 milligrams cholesterol

### Frog-Eye Salad

1 cup sugar  
2 tablespoons flour  
2 1/2 teaspoons salt  
2 eggs  
1 3/4 cups pineapple juice  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
3 quarts water  
1 tablespoon oil  
1 package (16 ounces) acini de pepe pasta  
3 cans (11 ounces each) mandarin oranges, drained  
2 cans (20 ounces each) pineapple chunks, drained  
1 can (20 ounces) crushed pineapple, drained  
1 carton (9 ounces or so) whipped topping  
1 cup miniature marshmallows  
1 cup coconut flakes



Quinoa is grown in the Andes Mountains in South America.

Combine sugar, flour and 1/2 teaspoon salt in a small saucepan. Mix in eggs. Gradually stir in pineapple juice. Cook over medium heat, stirring, until thickened. Add lemon juice. Set aside to cool.

Bring water to a boil with remaining 2 teaspoons salt and oil. Add acini de pepe pasta and stir. Cook at a rolling boil until pasta is done, about 9 minutes. Drain pasta. Rinse pasta and drain again. Combine pasta and egg mixture. Mix thoroughly. Cover and refrigerate overnight or until pasta has absorbed sauce. In a large container, combine pasta and remaining ingredients. Mix thoroughly. Store in covered container in the fridge.

Makes about 25 servings, enough for a family reunion or church potluck.

Serving size: 1 large serving spoonful. Per serving: 198 calories, 3 grams protein, 5 grams fat, 36 grams carbohydrates, 231 milligrams sodium, 15 milligrams cholesterol





**T**he recipe contest subject for July is **Hot Stuff**. I'm a medium-hot kind of person, but I have friends who are devoted to peppers—the hotter, the better! We want your spiciest recipes for July because, hey, what's a little more sweat in the middle of a Texas summer? Send us your recipes by April 10. The top winner will receive a copy of the *Texas Co-op Power Cookbook* and a gift pack from Adams Extract. Others whose recipes are published will also receive a gift pack from Adams Extract. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, as well as your co-op affiliation. Send recipes to Home Cooking, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704. You can also fax recipes to (512) 486-6254 or e-mail them to [recipes@texas-ec.org](mailto:recipes@texas-ec.org).

We definitely got some weird recipes for this contest—but weird doesn't necessarily mean good. There were some that were both tasty and strange, luckily, and the best of them are listed below. We'll spare you the simply odd. **BETSY HALL**, a member of Panola-Harrison EC, sent in her recipe for Pinto Bean Pie. She wrote, "Here's a recipe you've probably never heard of. It's a family favorite, and whenever I take this to get-togethers, everyone loves it but can't believe it's made from pinto beans. This one is sure to fool your taste buds!" Betsy will receive a copy of the *Texas Co-op Power Cookbook*. She will also receive a gift pack compliments of Adams Extract, as will the other winners whose recipes are published below.

### Pinto Bean Pie

3 cups sugar  
2 sticks melted margarine  
4 eggs  
1 cup cooked, mashed pinto beans  
OR 1 can undrained pinto beans, mashed  
1 cup chopped pecans  
1 cup coconut flakes  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
2 unbaked deep dish pie shells  
OR 3 unbaked regular pie shells

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Mix sugar and margarine until fluffy. Add eggs, beans, nuts, coconut and vanilla. Mix well and pour into pie shells. Bake 1 hour or until center is set. Serves 24.

Serving size: 1 slice. Per serving: 334 calories, 3 grams protein, 19 grams fat, 39 grams carbohydrates, 293 milligrams sodium, 52 milligrams cholesterol

(continued on page 32)

## TEXAS CO-OP POWER

### Holiday Baking Contest

*\$5,000 in Total Prizes!*

**SPONSORED BY ADAMS EXTRACT**

**GRAND PRIZE WINNER TAKES HOME \$3,000.  
FOUR RUNNERS-UP WILL EACH WIN \$500.**



**W**e're looking for the best baked goods from your holiday celebrations. All recipes must be original and the ingredients must include an Adams Extract flavoring. Winners will be announced in our December issue.

Up to three entries are allowed per person. Each should be submitted on a separate piece of paper and include your name, address and phone number, plus the name of your electric cooperative. All entries must be postmarked by September 10, 2005. Send entries to Holiday Baking Contest, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704, or fax to (512) 486-6254. To enter by e-mail ([recipes@texas-ec.org](mailto:recipes@texas-ec.org)), you must include "Holiday Baking Contest" in the subject line and submit one recipe per e-mail, not an attachment.

For official rules, visit [texascooppower.com/bakingcontest.html](http://texascooppower.com/bakingcontest.html) or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the address above.



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Make checks payable to: Texas Electric Cooperatives. Send \$18.75 for each cookbook to: TCP Cookbooks, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704.

(continued from page 31)

### Cornbread Salad

1 pan cornbread  
1 bell pepper, chopped  
1 cup chopped onion  
1 cup chopped celery  
1 pound bacon, cooked crisp and crumbled  
(or 1 cup real bacon bits)  
1 cup grated cheese  
Salad dressing or mayonnaise  
Salt and pepper to taste

Crumble cornbread and stir together with remaining ingredients, using enough salad dressing to make it all stick together. Sprinkle additional grated cheese on top and garnish with tomato wedges or sliced boiled eggs. Serves 12.

Serving size: 1 large serving spoonful. Per serving: 626 calories, 21 grams protein, 40 grams fat, 45 grams carbohydrates, 1,487 milligrams sodium, 86 milligrams cholesterol

NATHAN SARVIS, CoServ Electric

### Pavlova a la Kiwi

4 egg whites  
Pinch of salt  
1 cup sugar  
3 teaspoons cornstarch  
1 teaspoon vinegar  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
Whipped cream  
Kiwi or other fruit

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Beat egg whites with salt until very stiff. Fold in half the sugar and cornstarch. Repeat. Finally, fold in the vinegar and vanilla. Place mixture on aluminum foil on cookie sheet. Do not spread out. Bake for one hour, then switch oven off and leave in oven for 15 minutes. When cool, place on cake plate and top with whipped cream and sliced kiwi fruit or your favorite fruit that has been thinly sliced. Serves 6.

Serving size: 1/6 of recipe. Per serving: 196 calories, 3 grams protein, trace fat, 47 grams carbohydrates, 63 milligrams sodium, 0 milligrams cholesterol

MRS. LAMAR HOLLINGSWORTH,  
Pederalles EC





## Fried Sausage or Crabmeat Bread Pudding

6 extra large eggs  
3 cups milk  
2-3 tablespoons mayonnaise  
(real, not Miracle Whip)  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
6 tablespoons melted real butter  
1/4 teaspoon ground fennel  
1-2 tablespoons Worcestershire  
(optional, but good with the crab)  
1 cup shredded Colby/jack cheese  
1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar  
1 pound fried sausage  
OR fresh crabmeat, drained  
3/4 loaf of day-old French bread,  
torn into 1-inch pieces  
Options: peppers and/or cooked,  
chopped onions to taste

Beat eggs, milk and mayonnaise together until fluffy. Stir in the rest of the ingredients. Pour mixture over bread and stir until mixed. Spray oil in a 9x13-inch pan and pour in mixture. Bake at 375 degrees for 40 minutes or until a little brown around the edges. Save a little cheese to sprinkle on top, if you wish, then return dish to oven for 5 minutes to melt cheese. Note: For the crabmeat pudding, I pour half the mixture in the pan, place drained asparagus spears crosswise and then cover with the rest of the mixture and bake. Serves 12.

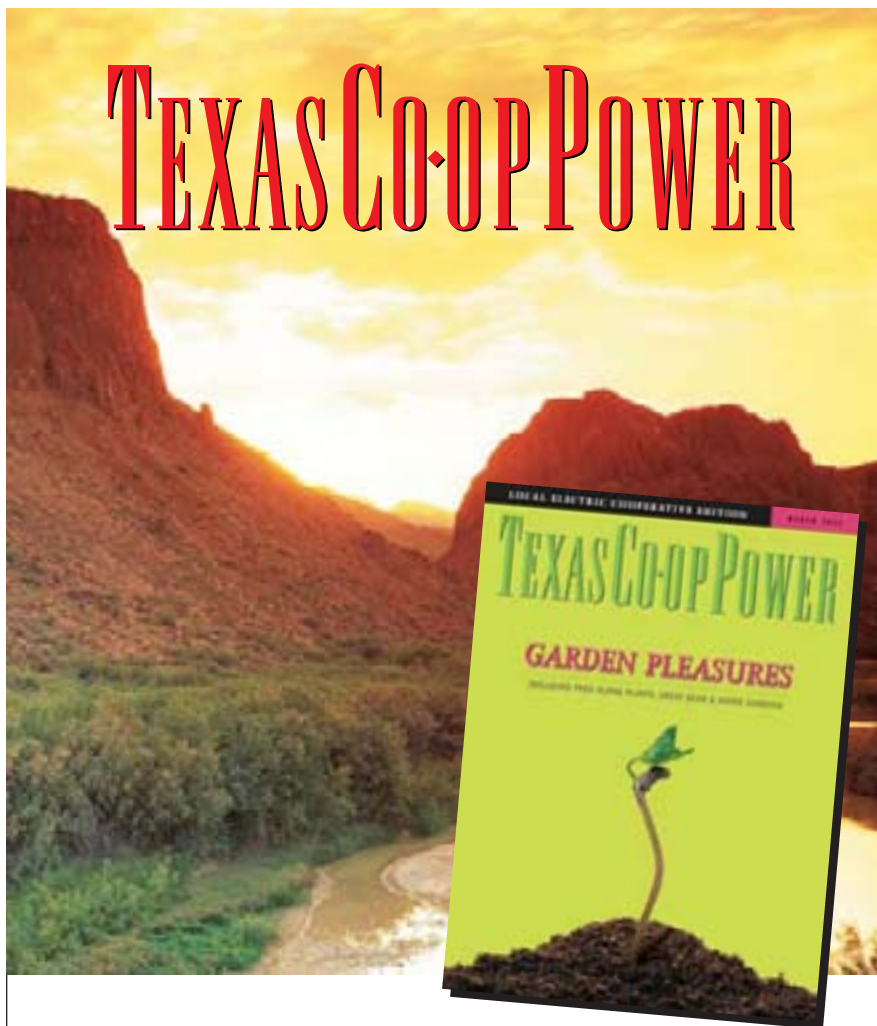
Sausage—Serving size: 1 large serving spoon-ful. Per serving: 652 calories, 23 grams protein, 37 grams fat, 55 grams carbohydrates, 1,219 milligrams sodium, 164 milligrams cholesterol

Crabmeat—Serving size: 1 large serving spoon-ful. Per serving: 531 calories, 26 grams protein, 23 grams fat, 55 grams carbohydrates, 1,092 milligrams sodium, 172 milligrams cholesterol

**SANDY HUBBARD KILGORE**, Pedernales EC



# TEXAS CO-OP POWER



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AROUND TEXAS

# April

1. Knights of Columbus Fish Fry, **Dripping Springs**, (512) 894-4470
- 1-2. Walker County Fair, Rodeo and BBQ Cookoff, **Huntsville**, (936) 295-8113
- 1-2. Midnight Madness, **Fayetteville**, (979) 378-2222
- 1-2. Sam Houston Jazz Festival, **Huntsville**, (936) 295-2150
- 1-3. Chalk Bluff Bluegrass Festival, **Uvalde**, (830) 278-5515
- 1-3. Vintage Motocross and Sidecar Race, **Jefferson**, (903) 240-2385
- 1-3. Bluebonnet Bash Fine Arts and Studio Tour, **Lakeway**, (512) 261-4217
2. First Saturday Arts and Crafts, **Kyle**, (512) 268-4220
2. Texas Indian Hobbyist Powwow, **Burnet**, (512) 756-4297
2. Civil War Living History Day, banquet and ball, **Blanco**, (830) 833-2026
2. Three Rivers Salsa Festival, **Three Rivers**, 1-888-600-3115 or [www.threeriverssalsa.com](http://www.threeriverssalsa.com)
2. Bloomin' Fest, **Lampasas**, (512) 556-5172
2. Corsicana Opry, **Corsicana**, (903) 872-8226
2. Countywide Yard Sale, **Tuleta**, (361) 375-2558

2. Spring Art and Craft Show, **Burnet**, (512) 756-0834
2. Pecan Grafting Seminar, **West Columbia**, (979) 345-4656
2. Hog's Hunt 50K/25K Trail Run, **Huntsville**, [www.hillcountrytrailrunners.com](http://www.hillcountrytrailrunners.com)
2. Ole Time Music, **Pearl**, (254) 865-6013
2. Brush Country Music Jamboree, **Three Rivers**, (361) 786-3334
2. Billy the Kid Day, **Hico**, 1-800-361-4426
2. Spring Market Day, **Comfort**, (830) 995-3131 or [www.comfortchamberofcommerce.com](http://www.comfortchamberofcommerce.com)
2. Greater East Texas Gardening Extravaganza, **Lufkin**, (936) 632-9012
2. Spring Gas-Up and Swap Meet, **Temple**, (254) 487-3939
2. Fish Fry, Auction, Games and More Festival, **Lakehills**, (830) 751-2404
2. Storytelling Festival, **Gonzales**, (830) 672-2157
2. Plant Fair, **College Station**, (979) 535-8122
- 2-3. Zilker Garden Festival, **Austin**, (512) 477-8672
- 2-3. Arts and Crafts Festival, **Burnet**, (512) 756-4297
- 2-3. Eldorado Elgoatarod, goat races, **Eldorado**, (325) 853-2434
- 2-3. Hill Country Dog Agility Show, **Kerrville**, (830) 792-4728

- 2-3, 9-10. Bluebonnet Arts and Crafts Show, **Buchanan Dam**, (512) 793-2858 or [www.bacgallery.org](http://www.bacgallery.org)
3. Grace Community Church Spring Festival, **Castroville**, (830) 931-3057
3. Blooms Above the Blanco, **Kyle**, (512) 268-9981
4. Spring Fling, **Hamilton**, (254) 386-3919
5. Bluebonnet AirShow, **Burnet**, (512) 756-2226 or [www.highlandlakessquadron.com](http://www.highlandlakessquadron.com)
- 7-9. Jazz It Up! Festival, **Victoria**, (361) 573-3291, ext. 3255
- 8-10. Bluebonnet Festival and Air Show, **Burnet**, (512) 756-4297
- 8-17. San Jacinto Festival, **West Columbia**, (979) 345-3921
9. Hans Christian Andersen 200th Birthday, **Danewang**, (979) 543-2106
9. Van Zandt Gospel Music Festival, **Canton**, (903) 340-1330
9. Lions Club Auction, **Utopia**, 1-866-966-3311
9. West Wind Trade Days, **Anson**, (325) 823-2376
9. Spring Gala, **Cyclone**, (254) 985-2537
9. Redbud Festival, **Denton**, (940) 349-8737
9. Market Days, **Fayetteville**, (979) 378-2339
9. Community Quilt Show, **Spicewood**, (830) 693-5900

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9. Wildflower Festival, **Johnson City**, (830) 868-2711
9. Cassie VFD Fish Fry, **Buchanan Dam**, (512) 793-2926
9. Bluebonnet Farm and Ranch Tour, **Bellville**, (979) 865-0000 or [www.bluebonnetranch.tour.com](http://www.bluebonnetranch.tour.com)
9. Market Days, **Georgetown**, (512) 868-8675
- 9-10. Antique Truck Show and Auction, **New Braunfels**, (830) 606-7355
- 9-10. Highland Lakes Wildflower Show, **Kingsland**, (325) 379-1515
- 9-10. Runaway Scrape Reenactment, **Richmond**, (281) 343-0218 or [www.georgeranch.org](http://www.georgeranch.org)
- 9-10. 23-24. Chicken House Flea Market, **Stephenville**, (254) 968-0888
- 9-30. Dogwood Fiesta, **Quitman**, (903) 763-4411 or [www.quitman.com](http://www.quitman.com)
10. Warm Weather Wine Tasting, **Granbury**, (817) 279-1164
10. Coin and Collectibles Show, **College Station**, (979) 575-4669
10. Texas Dinosaur Day, **Canyon Lake**, (830) 899-6928 or [www.heritage-museum.info](http://www.heritage-museum.info)
11. McDade Jamboree, **McDade**, (512) 273-2307
13. House and Garden Tour and Luncheon, **Bryan**, (979) 846-6547
14. Stagecoach Stopover, **Anderson**, (936) 825-6600
14. Taste of Victoria, **Victoria**, (361) 574-2222
15. Country Opry, **Victoria**, (361) 552-9347
15. Bluegrass Show and Jam, **Cleburne**, (817) 373-2541
15. Tarleton Chamber Choir Concert, **Granbury**, (817) 279-1164
- 15-16. New Vintage Wine Trail, **Grapevine**, 1-800-457-6338 or [www.grapevinetexas-usa.com](http://www.grapevinetexas-usa.com)
- 15-16. Antique Show and Pull, **Stephenville**, (254) 965-8843
- 15-16. Countywide Bow-Wow Flea Market, **Coleman**, (325) 625-1642 or [www.HumaneSocietyCC.com](http://www.HumaneSocietyCC.com)
- 15-17. Arts Festival, **Lubbock**, (806) 744-2787
- 15-17. Wine and Wildflowers Trail, **Hill Country**, (866) 621-9463 or [www.texaswinetrail.com](http://www.texaswinetrail.com)
- 15-17. Antique Alley and 15-Mile Yard Sale, **Grandview to Cleburne**, (817) 866-3987
- 15-17. Mesquite Show, **San Angelo**, (830) 997-8515 or [www.texasmesquiteassn.org](http://www.texasmesquiteassn.org)
16. Gopher Spring Festival, **Gallatin**, (903) 683-2327
16. Community Barbecue, **Krum**, (940) 482-3120
16. Quilt and Craft Show, **Brady**, (325) 597-2946



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The award-winning Jump, Jive & JamFest will feature a great lineup of music (including Grammy winners Los Lonely Boys), art activities and family fun in Texarkana April 22-24, [www.jumpjivejamfest.org](http://www.jumpjivejamfest.org).

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And, oh yes, we can fill up your tank, too!

- 16. San Jacinto Day Festival, **West Columbia**, (979) 345-4656
- 16. Piecemakers Quilt Show, **Livingston**, (936) 563-4580
- 16. Brazos Valley Planet Earth Celebration, **Bryan**, (979) 764-6223
- 16. Market Days, **Victoria**, (361) 552-9347
- 16. Butterfly Day, **Wimberley**, (512) 847-6969 or [www.emilyann.org](http://www.emilyann.org)
- 16. Pineywoods Pick'n Parlor Concert, **Mineola**, (903) 569-8037 or [www.pineywoodspicknparlor.com](http://www.pineywoodspicknparlor.com)
- 16. Hill Country Lawn and Garden Show, **Burnet**, (512) 756-4297 or [www.burnetchamber.org](http://www.burnetchamber.org)
- 16. Ladies State Championship Chili Cook-Off, **Seguin**, (830) 379-6382
- 16-17. Classic Goat Show, **Sonora**, (325) 387-7046
- 16-17. "Wild Bunch" Rodeo to Cure Cancer, **McGregor**, (254) 744-3111
- 16-17. Spring Fest, **Granbury**, (817) 573-5533
- 16-17. Wise County Home and Lawn Show, **Decatur**, (940) 627-1553
- 17. St. Patrick's Spring Festival, **Sabinal**, (830) 486-6242
- 21-23. Wildflower Trails Festival, **Linden**,

- (903) 796-3003
- 21-24. Red River Valley Birding and Nature Festival, **Pottsboro**, 1-888-893-1188
- 22-24. General Sam Houston Folk Festival, **Huntsville**, (939) 294-1832
- 22-24. Germanfest, **Muenster**, (940) 759-2227
- 22-24. Jump, Jive & JamFest, **Texarkana**, (903) 792-4992 or [www.jumpjivejamfest.org](http://www.jumpjivejamfest.org)
- 23. City-Wide Garage Sale, **Marble Falls**, (830) 693-2815 or [www.marblefalls.org](http://www.marblefalls.org)
- 23. Big Country Old Settlers Reunion, **Buffalo Gap**, (325) 572-5733
- 23. Bluebird Festival, **Wills Point**, 1-800-972-5824
- 23. Earth Day Celebration, **Kerrville**, (830) 257-4837 or [www.riversidenaturecenter.org](http://www.riversidenaturecenter.org)
- 23. Bluegrass Festival, **Woodlawn**, (903) 938-0719
- 23. Herb Festival, **Huntsville**, (936) 436-1017
- 23. Sounds of Texas Music Series, **Conroe**, (936) 441-7469
- 23. Granbury Municipal Airport Fly-in Breakfast, **Granbury**, (817) 579-8533 or [www.granbury.org](http://www.granbury.org)
- 23. Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament, **Rusk**, (903) 683-4242

- 23. Coshatte Agricultural Society Barbecue Cook-Off, **Bellville**, (979) 865-5576
- 23. Trade's Day, **Coldspring**, (935) 653-2009
- 23. El Camino Real de los Tejas Symposium, **Cameron**, (254) 697-4979
- 23. Coletto Creek 25th Anniversary Celebration, **Victoria**, (361) 575-6366 or [www.colettocreekpark.com](http://www.colettocreekpark.com)
- 23. Bluegrass Music Show, **Quitman**, (903) 763-4411 or [www.quitman.com](http://www.quitman.com)
- 23. Car Show and Scout Fair, **Spurger**, (409) 429-5864
- 23-24. Guild Quilt Show, **Brownwood**, (325) 643-9527
- 23-24. Tablerock's Gospel Festival, **Salado**, (254) 947-5100
- 23-24. Outlaw Nationals Rod Run, **Jefferson**, (903) 665-3411
- 23-24. Viking Fest, **Waco**, (254) 296-1857 or [www.vikingfest.com](http://www.vikingfest.com)
- 23-24. Folklife Festival, **Cisco**, (254) 442-3478
- 23-24. Mesquite Daze, **Anson**, (325) 823-3259
- 23-24. Red Poppy Festival, **Georgetown**, 1-800-436-8698 or [www.redpoppyfestival.com](http://www.redpoppyfestival.com)
- 24. Spring Festival, **Bulverde**, (830) 980-7938
- 24. St. Michael's Spring Festival, **Weimar**,

## FESTIVAL OF THE MONTH

BY JIM GRAMON

### 54th Bluebonnet Trails Festival: April 15–17, Ennis



GINA ROKAS, ENNIS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

Looking for the perfect family portrait background? Follow 40 miles of bluebonnet trails at the Bluebonnet Trails Festival in Ennis this month.

Springtime in Texas blooms with miles of breathtaking wildflowers—time to take a leisurely drive through the countryside. Some of the prettiest land blanketed in bluebonnets can be found around Ennis, 25 miles south of Dallas on I-45.

The small town welcomes approximately 100,000 visitors each April. The main attraction is the Bluebonnet Trails Festival Weekend, but visitors flock to the area to see a variety of wildflowers all month.

Designated by the Texas Legislature in 1997 as the home of the "Official Texas Bluebonnet Trail," Ennis showcases over 40 miles of mapped bluebonnet trails. These are said to be the oldest such mapped trails in the state.

Sponsored by the Ennis Garden Club, the Bluebonnet Trails Festival features arts, crafts, souvenirs, food, live music and much more. Free trail maps are available from the Ennis Convention and Visitors Bureau.

While in Ennis, you might take the time to look up the new Galaxy Drive-In, a form of movie entertainment I thought had disappeared. Sure brings back some special memories for me.

Directions: From Dallas take I-45, exit on 251-B. Turn right (west) on Ennis Ave., go about a mile to Pierce Park at the corner of Ennis Ave. and N.W. Main St. Call the Ennis Convention and Visitors Bureau, (972) 828-4748 or 1-888-366-4748. [www.visitennis.org](http://www.visitennis.org)

Jim is author of FUN Texas Festivals and Events. [Jim@JimGramon.com](mailto:Jim@JimGramon.com), [www.JimGramon.com](http://www.JimGramon.com). E-mail Jim with Festival feature suggestions.



- 1-888-393-4627
28. Wine-Making Workshop, **Granbury**, (817) 279-1164
28. Symphony Orchestra Concert, **Kerrville**, (830) 792-7469 or [www.symphonyofthehills.com](http://www.symphonyofthehills.com)
- 28-30. Kerrville Senior Games, **Kerrville**, (830) 896-4263 or [www.kerrville seniorgames.com](http://www.kerrville seniorgames.com)
- 28-May 1. Homecoming celebration, **Lexington**, (979) 773-2768
- 29-30. Needles in the Pines Quilt Show, **Lufkin**, (936) 398-2167
- 29-30. Derrick Days, oil heritage celebration, **Corsicana**, (903) 874-4731
- 29-30. Heritage Days, **Coldspring**, (935) 653-2009
- 29-30. Dewberry Festival, **Cameron**, (254) 697-4979
- 29-May 1. Pilgrimage Tour of Homes, **Jefferson**, 1-888-467-3529 or [www.jefferson-texas.com](http://www.jefferson-texas.com)
- 29-May 1. Living History Camp and Civil War Reenactment, **Jefferson**, 1-888-467-3529 or [www.jefferson-texas.com](http://www.jefferson-texas.com)
- 29-30. Hill Country Run and Bluebonnet Ball, **Luckenbach**, 1-888-311-8990 or [luckenbachtexas.com](http://luckenbachtexas.com)
30. Spring NatureFest, between **Nacogdoches** and **Lufkin**, (936) 632-8733 or [www.texasforestry.org](http://www.texasforestry.org)
30. Lucky B Bison Festival, **Bryan**, (979) 823-7852 or [www.luckybbison.com](http://www.luckybbison.com)
30. City Wide Garage Sale, **Lampasas**, (512) 556-6555
30. Main Street Trade Days, **Seguin**, (830) 379-6382
- 30-May 1. Historic Homes Tour, **Gonzales**, 1-888-672-1095 or [www.gonzalestexas.com](http://www.gonzalestexas.com)
- 30-May 1. Gem and Mineral Show, **Lubbock**, (806) 894-1584
- 30-May 1. St. Joseph's Catholic Church Bazaar, **Livingston**, (936) 967-8385
- 30-May 1. Sutton County Car Expo, **Sonora**, (325) 206-0520
- 30-May 1. Civil War Reenactment, **Chatfield**, (903) 345-2223
- 30-May 1. Heritage Days, **Navasota**, (979) 777-0499 or [www.navasotaheritagedays.com](http://www.navasotaheritagedays.com)



Confederate memorabilia from the Civil War will be on display at reenactments in Blanco, Jefferson and Chatfield in April.

## May

1. Heritage Home Tours, **San Marcos**, 1-888-200-5620
3. Brush Country Music Jamboree, **Three Rivers**, (361) 786-3334
5. Cinco De Mayo Celebration, **Huntsville**, (936) 295-0223
- 5-7. Viva! Cinco De Mayo, **San Marcos**, 1-888-200-5620
- 5-7. Gedenke Festival, **Weimar**, 1-888-393-4627
6. Knights of Columbus Fish Fry, **Dripping Springs**, (512) 894-4470
- 6-8. Wildflower Trail Ride, **Mason**, (830) 456-6745 or [www.masoncountytrailrides.homestead.com](http://www.masoncountytrailrides.homestead.com)
7. Corsicana Opry, **Corsicana**, (903) 872-8226
7. Ole Time Music, **Pearl**, (254) 865-6013
7. Airing of the Quilts, **Huntsville**, (936) 294-9496
7. Moonlight and Roses, garden viewing/reception, **West Columbia**, (979) 345-4656
7. Historic Home Tour and Quilt Show, **Castroville**, (830) 538-2657
7. Cinco De Mayo Celebration, **Marshall**, (903) 935-4484
7. Antique Bottle and Jar Show/Sale, **Tuleta**, (361) 375-2558
7. First Saturday Arts and Crafts, **Kyle**, (512) 268-4220
7. Founder's Day, **Howe**, (903) 532-4693 or [www.howetx.org](http://www.howetx.org)
7. Sebastopol May Day, **Seguin**, (830) 379-6382
- 7-8. St. Joseph's Bazaar, **Livingston**, (936) 967-8385

Event information can be mailed to Around Texas, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704, faxed to (512) 486-6254, or e-mailed to [aroundtx@texas-ec.org](mailto:aroundtx@texas-ec.org). It must be submitted by the 10th of the month two months prior to publication. E.g., June submissions must be received prior to April 10. Events are listed according to space available. We appreciate photos with credits but regret that they cannot be returned.

## SAFE LIVING

### Help Us Keep Your Little Ones Safe

**S**mall children—especially crawlers and toddlers who love to explore their surroundings—can't seem to resist picking up objects off the floor and sticking them into electrical outlets. They're just too young to understand the danger.

So it's up to you to watch out for them. Keep small



objects off the floor as much as possible. Pennies, hairpins and other tiny things, especially those made of metal, represent a real risk to your child.

Just as importantly, shield all your outlets with child safety covers. For frequently used outlets, buy the type of cover that slides out to allow a cord to be plugged in.

Finally, never leave light bulb sockets empty! It's a good practice to leave a burned-out bulb in place until you can replace it. That empty socket, especially if it's in view of a toddler, can be very tempting.

At your electric cooperative, safety is a number-one priority—on the job as well as at home. For more advice on keeping your family safe, give us a call.

# Dig and Plant, Grow and Harvest

**W**e figured our readers would have plenty of gardening experience, judging from their positive comments about our March gardening issue. Many of the submissions proved that gardening is a family project, spanning generations and creating memories for future gardeners—and readers!

**Picnics** is the topic for our June issue. Send your entries—along with your name, address, daytime phone, co-op affiliation and a brief description—to Picnics, Focus on Texas, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704, before April 10. For digital photo requirements and e-mail instructions, go to [www.texas-ec.org/tcp/faq.html](http://www.texas-ec.org/tcp/faq.html). A stamped, self-addressed envelope should be included if you want your entry returned. Please allow four to six weeks for your photos to be returned.

**ALANA JOHNSON** picked peaches to take to her classmates. Her grandparents, **ARONO** and **JOYCE JETER**, think Alana is a real “peach” herself. The Jeters are members of Panola-Harrison EC. ►

Cooke County EC member **KATHLEEN DOVE** calls herself a “determined gardener.” Since her retirement six years ago, she’s built and worked her garden, amended the soil, fought off a four-year grasshopper plague, and still managed to grow some beautiful produce, plants and flowers, as evidenced by the many photos she sent us. We couldn’t narrow it down to just one garden photo, so we picked this one of the determined gardener herself, peeking out from the sweet corn. ►

After a big rain, friends **DILLON FERGUSON** and **CONNER FISHER** surprised Dillon’s grandparents by posing as “statues” in their flower garden. Grandparents **LAMAR** and **ELLON GUSTAFSON** belong to Pedernales EC. ▼



This was the basket of bounty gathered one summer evening by Wood County EC member **DEANNA MCCULLAH**. When a friend suggested that the basket was pretty enough for a picture, she carried her basket outside and snapped this shot of her colorful harvest.



**BOBBY** and **JESSIE GOSSETT** plant peppers every year for their granddaughter, **HEATHER MCGEE** (shown here at 3 years). “She always goes out to her garden spot to check the progress and to harvest anything,” they said. This particular morning, she surprised them by getting herself up and dressed without help, and then going outside to water her peppers by 8:30 a.m. The Gossetts belong to Central Texas EC.

## UPCOMING in Focus on Texas

ISSUE	SUBJECT	DEADLINE
June	Picnics	April 10
July	Water Gardens & Ponds	May 10
August	Those Were the Days	June 10
September	Bridges	July 10
October	Pumpkin Patch	August 10
November	The Big Hunt	September 10





## Grass Pink Orchids, Lake Sam Rayburn



**H**aving spent years photographing bluebonnets, Indian paintbrush, pink evening primrose and the like, I decided to document some of Texas' more unusual native flowering species.

In the 1990s, I lived in Houston and traveled the state each spring searching for rare wildflowers I had never seen, much less documented. Some of these blooming species turned out to be truly outstanding, while others are rather plain.

The mysterious orchids of East Texas have always fascinated me. Found primarily in the Big Thicket region, bounded by the area just east of Houston and extending to Beaumont, and then northward to Woodville and Jasper, all native orchids in Texas are classified as endangered. A few are so rare that they are only found in a mere handful of spots.

During a couple of consecutive Big Thicket trips, I found a few grass pink orchids with their 2-inch blossoms. The blooms were well past peak, so the photos were not the best. The following year, I went too early and the buds had not yet opened. I gave up on the quest.

A decade later my wife and I moved near Lake Sam Rayburn, about 10 miles north of Jasper. I started investigating a pitcher plant bog only five minutes from my house. Once we went there when the bog was blanketed with thousands of lime-green carnivorous pitcher plants. And suddenly I saw orchids! Scores of magenta-hued, grass pink orchids ... all at the peak of their blooming period. I spent half a day getting the photos I had dreamed of a dozen years earlier.

This year I will revisit the pitcher plant bog and shoot to my heart's content. I never expected to be able to photograph in my own neighborhood the orchid that eluded me for so long.

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Stephan Myers is a writer and photographer who regularly contributes to Texas Co-op Power.