

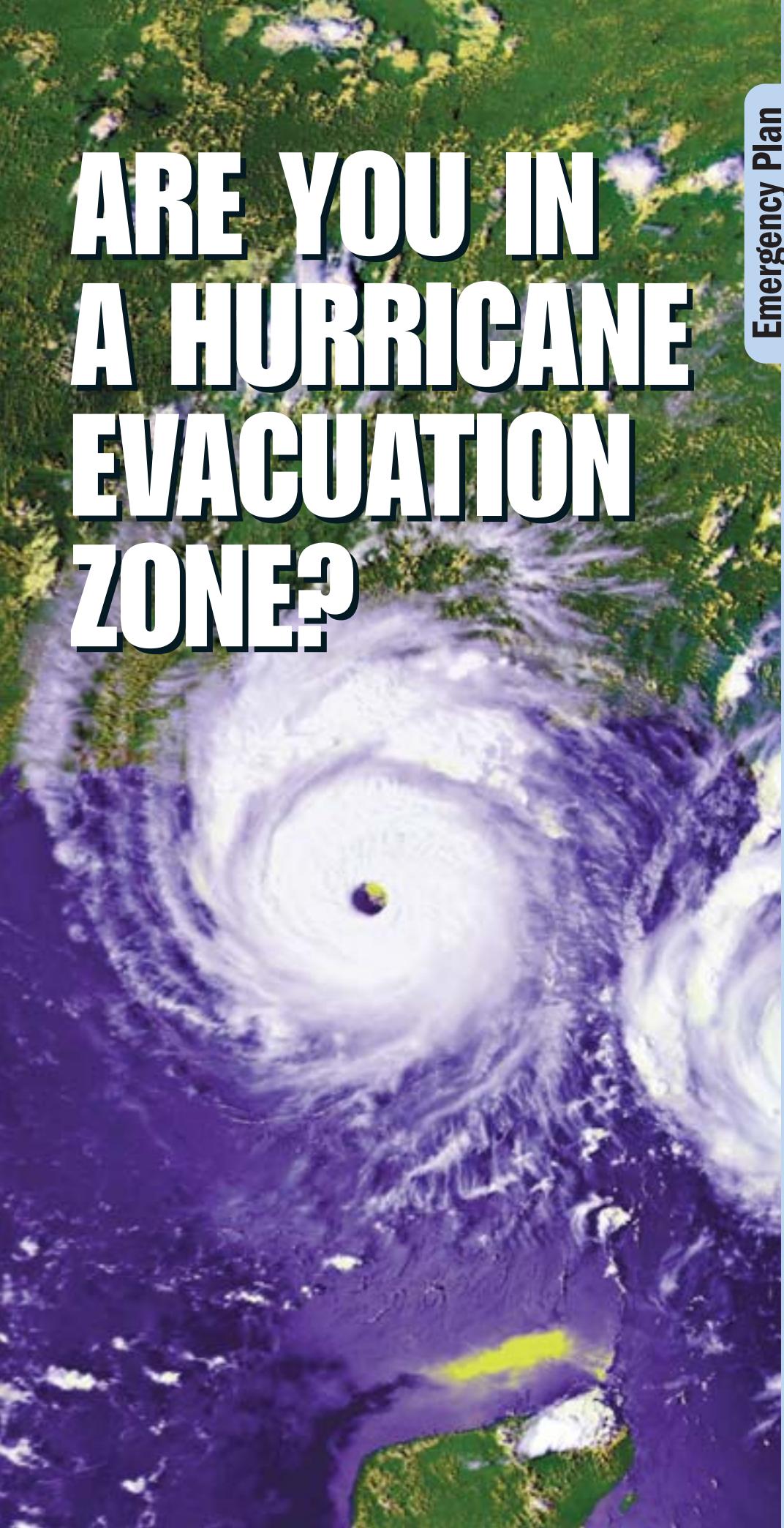
# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

## The Rolling Plains



PLUS:

'Green' House  
Texas Blueberry Festival  
Quilt Legacy



## Emergency Plan

# ARE YOU IN A HURRICANE EVACUATION ZONE?

Hurricane season is June 1 through November 30. Residents of Texas Gulf Coast evacuation zones should begin now by making an evacuation plan. Here are tips from the Governor's Division of Emergency Management.

## Dial 2-1-1

- Residents of Texas Gulf Coast EVACUATION ZONES should BEGIN NOW by making an evacuation plan, preparing an emergency kit, and learning evacuation routes well in advance.
- To find out whether your residence is in an evacuation zone, dial 2-1-1.
- If you have special health care needs and cannot make transportation arrangements, register in advance by dialing 2-1-1.
- If you do not have a car or other vehicle, and you cannot get a ride with friends, neighbors or family, register in advance for a ride by dialing 2-1-1.
- Do not wait until a storm is in the Gulf to register for assistance. Your information will be confidential.



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# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

A MAGAZINE ABOUT TEXAS LIVING

## Living Large

**W**hen non-natives think of Texas, they usually imagine cowboys and cattle ranches and wide-open spaces. As Texans, we know that our vast state encompasses many diverse and beautiful landscapes—from the deep green East Texas Piney Woods and the cerulean seascapes of the Coastal Bend, to the rolling Texas Hill Country and the magnificent mountains of Big Bend.

This month, Russell Graves tells us—in words and pictures—of his love for the Rolling Plains and its quintessential Texas terrain. But it's not just the land that draws him to his Childress home: "In a lot of ways, the people who live in this part of Texas epitomize what it means to be a Texan—tough and resilient, but most of all, gracious and affable."

And speaking of home, sweet home, Jody Horton shows us some ways to lower our energy usage, reduce costs and waste, and create a healthy living environment in "Green by Design." The Cowels family's response to the challenge of building under a scorching Texas sun was to build a "green" home. They had the means to design a very special home. We hope you can apply some of their inspiration to your current or future home as well.

Summer in Texas! We'll cool you down with this month's Focus on water and give you some recipes for blueberries—the sweetest of summer's indulgences. You can even celebrate the blueberry harvest at the Texas Blueberry Festival in Nacogdoches June 10.

Enjoy!



Peg Champion  
VP, Communications/Publisher

## In This Issue



The Caprock Escarpment marks the western edge of the Rolling Plains.

### FEATURES

#### The Rolling Plains ..... 6

Photos and text by Russell Graves

He only intended to stay a couple of years, but the Rolling Plains has become photographer Russell Graves' "field of dreams." It's a big, beautiful land, sparse in population but rich in history.



**LACY CRAIG** had good intentions: She was going to help wash the family car. But that bucket of clean, soapy water was just too tempting, so she opted for a cool dip in the bucket. Her grandmother is Cherokee County Electric Cooperative member **FAYE**

**LYNN RYAN.** For more "summer fun" photos, turn to page 37.

#### Green by Design: Style + Substance ..... 10

By Jody Horton

Designed with conservation and longevity in mind, "green" homes are appealing to an ever-larger audience.

### DEPARTMENTS

#### Texas Living ..... 26

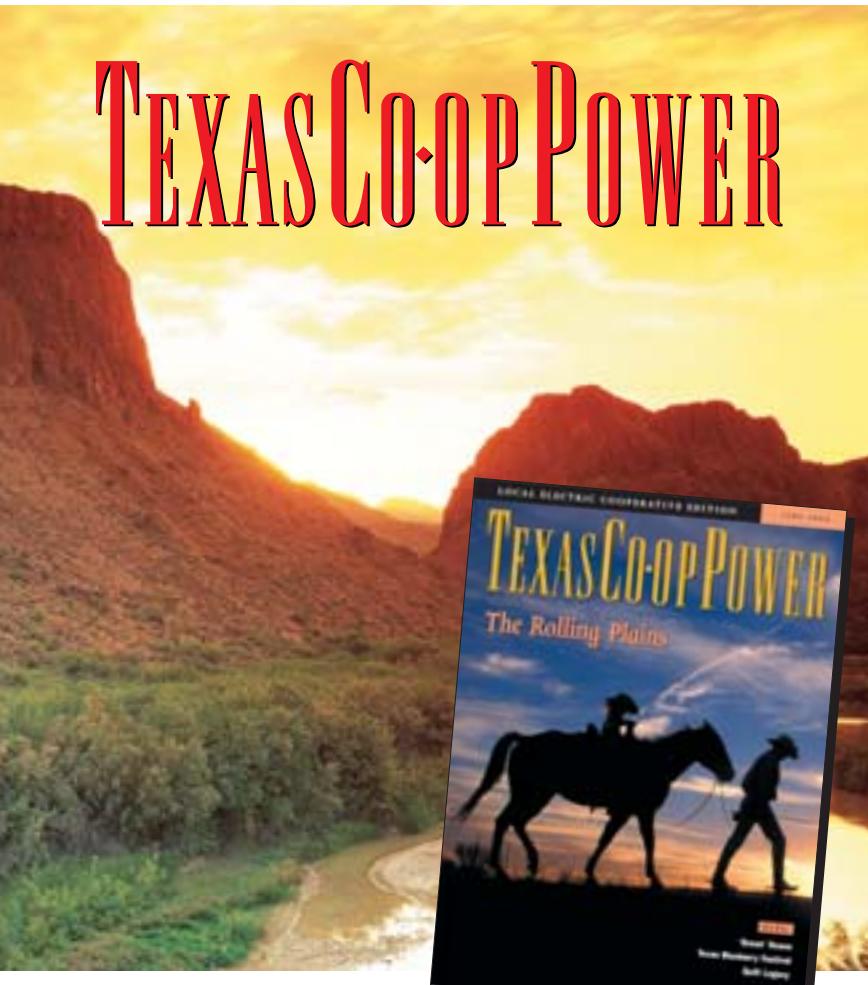
Blueberry recipes and the Texas Blueberry Festival in Nacogdoches.

#### Focus on Texas ..... 37

Water (lots of it, if possible) is at the heart of summer fun, as we see from this month's photo submissions.

#### Texas, USA ..... 38

Photo by Will Van Overbeek  
Quilt Legacy in Fairfield



# SHARE THE POWER!

*Texas Co-op Power* is the Texas living magazine with a rural, suburban and small town focus. Each month you will read entertaining articles about Texas people, Texas history, Texas nature, Texas travel and Texas food.

And, in every issue we feature a personal look at chosen towns in "Texas, USA" along with "Around Texas," featuring selected events around the state.

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# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

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# COOL SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

## Swimming

Don't be all wet. Remember these rules for safe pool-time fun this summer:

- Keep electric radios, TVs, clocks, barbecues, lights and other electrical appliances at least 10 feet from a pool and wet surfaces. Use battery-powered appliances whenever possible.
- Electric appliances should not be used outdoors unless they are equipped with a heavy-duty cord and three-prong plug.
- Swimming pools should be well away from electric wires to avoid the risk of hitting the wires with long-handled cleaning equipment.
- All outdoor electrical outlets should be weatherproof and equipped with a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). This is especially important in damp locations where more protection is necessary.
- Check with your electric co-op before you dig to make sure you know the location of buried electrical lines.
- Label power and light switches for pool, hot tub and spa equipment.
- If you think you are being shocked while in the water, move away from the source of the shock. Get out of the water, if possible, without using a metal ladder.

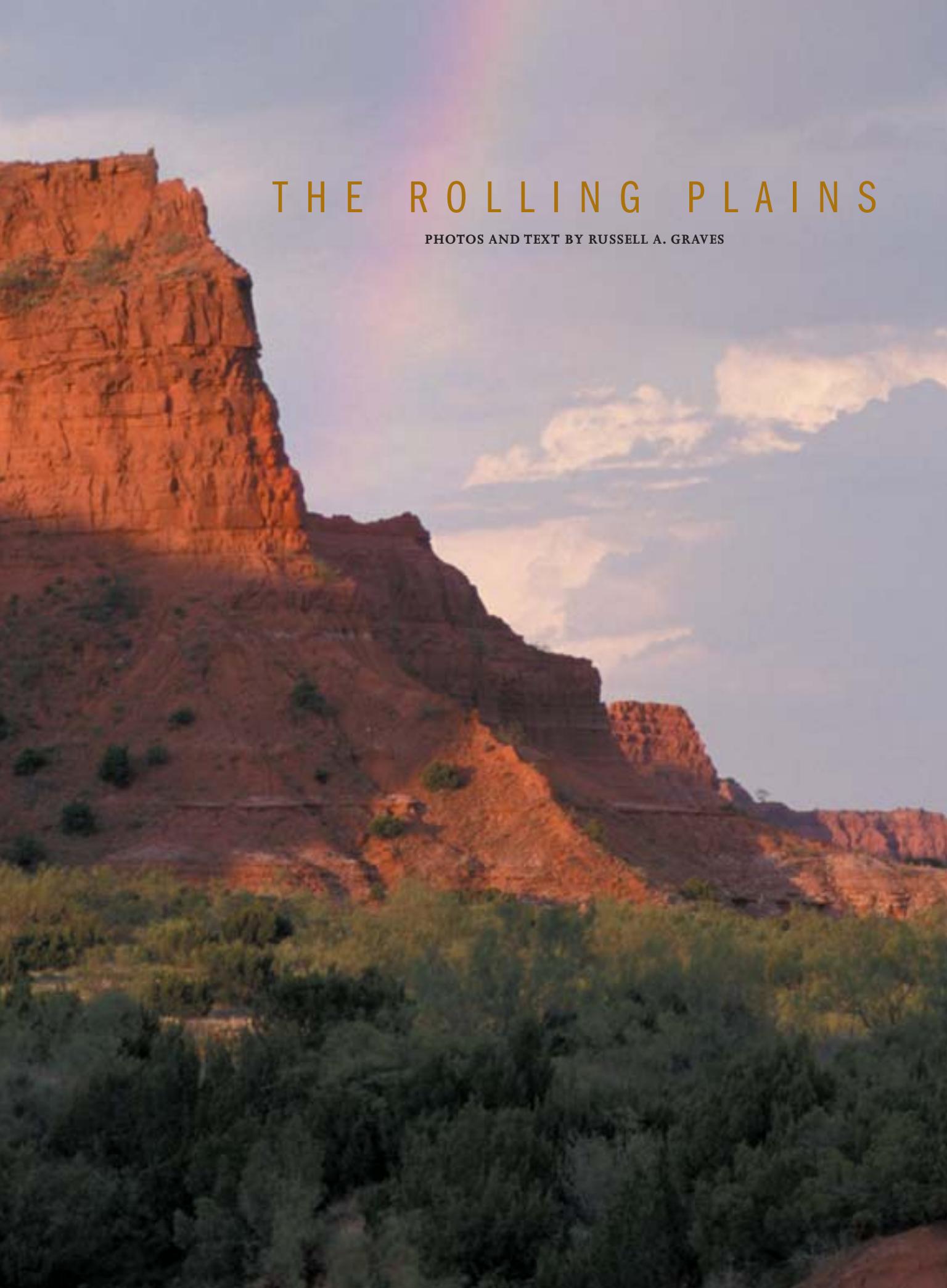
Stay safe this summer.  
Don't swim with shocks!



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# THE ROLLING PLAINS

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY RUSSELL A. GRAVES

# TWENTY-THREE AND NEARLY OUT OF COLLEGE, I TRAVELED UP THE RED RIVER SOME 250 MILES FROM MY HOME IN DODD CITY TO ACCEPT A JOB IN THE TOWN OF CHILDRESS.

I INTENDED TO WORK IN CHILDRESS FOR A couple of years, then migrate back to where I was raised.

Soon, however, these red dirt plains had a hold on me. Nearly 13 years and some 50,000 photographic images later, my commitment to this part of Texas is stronger than ever.

The Texas Rolling Plains is a big, beautiful land. Bounded on the south by the Edwards Plateau, the west by the Caprock Escarpment, the Cross Timbers on the east, and the Red River in the north, the red plains cut a broad swath through Texas' midsection.

Its population is sparse, but its history is rich with buffalo hunters, cattle ranches and Plains Indians. The Rolling Plains has been largely the focus of my magazine work and the inspiration for at least three of my books. It is my "field of dreams," and its infinite mystery continues to draw me afield.

Although the land is rugged, it still has a softness about it. Slight breezes make the junipers sway in rhythmic syncopation with the wind. Mornings bring crimson rays of sunlight spilling across the mesquite and prickly pear badlands, illuminating the landscape in clean light domed by an immense cobalt sky.

About a third of the region is used for agricultural crop production. Cotton and wheat are the predominant crops, but milo, peanuts and hay are also grown. During the spring and

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Cattle and cotton dominate the economy of this rugged land.



# IN A LOT OF WAYS, THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THIS PART OF TEXAS EPITOMIZE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A TEXAN—TOUGH AND RESILIENT, BUT MOST OF ALL GRACIOUS AND AFFABLE.



fall, when heavy plows furrow the land, huge clouds of red dirt help pinpoint the tractors from afar. Once the seeds lie in the ground, farmers look to the sky and wait for the rain to fall. Although not the driest region in Texas, much of the Rolling Plains gets only a couple of feet of rainfall annually. As the saying goes, “You should be here the day we get it ...”

The land that isn’t under tillage is home to some of the biggest ranches in Texas—legendary spreads like the Triangle, Waggoner, Pitchfork and Four Sixes. Much of Texas’ prosperity can be traced to the influence of West Texas ranches during the post-Civil War reconstruction era. The vast grasslands fattened cattle and helped shape Texas’ cultural and economic identity.

The grass, brush and empty space sustain a plentiful variety of wildlife. The Rolling Plains offers some of the last wild horned toad habitats. Mule and white-tailed deer intermingle with the Rio Grande turkey. Blue and bobwhite quail and the occasional ringneck pheasant strut and scratch the dirt while playing their eternal game of survival. As one of the last habitats of wild bobwhite quail left in the nation, the Rolling Plains plays host to hunters from all over the country who want their chance to chase the 6-ounce winged rocket.

The camouflaged and hunter-orange-clad tourists are a welcome sight, as hunting is arguably the num-

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**LEFT:** This cowgirl and her horse epitomize the friendliness for which the Rolling Plains are known.

# MORNINGS BRING CRIMSON RAYS OF SUNLIGHT SPILLING ACROSS THE MESQUITE AND PRICKLY PEAR BADLANDS.

ber-one tourist attraction for the region. Unfortunately, much of the Rolling Plains is depopulating. During the past 40 years, some counties have seen as much as 50 percent of their population leave to pursue economic opportunities elsewhere.

Abandoned farmhouses and empty stores still stand where people once bustled. Communities with colorful names like Whiteflat, Dumont, Medicine Mound, Purple Hill and Hackberry that once thrived with families are now little more than dots on a map. Their sunburnt buildings survive as best they can, silent sentinels in the constant West Texas wind.

Although the population has dwindled over much of the Rolling Plains, the pioneering spirit endures. In a lot of ways, the people who live in this part of Texas epitomize what it means to be a Texan—tough and resilient, but most of all gracious and affable.

After I first moved to Childress, musician Red Steagall autographed a book for me, *Ride for the Brand*. A passage in one of his pieces (“Born to This Land”) sums up what it means to live and thrive in the Rolling Plains:

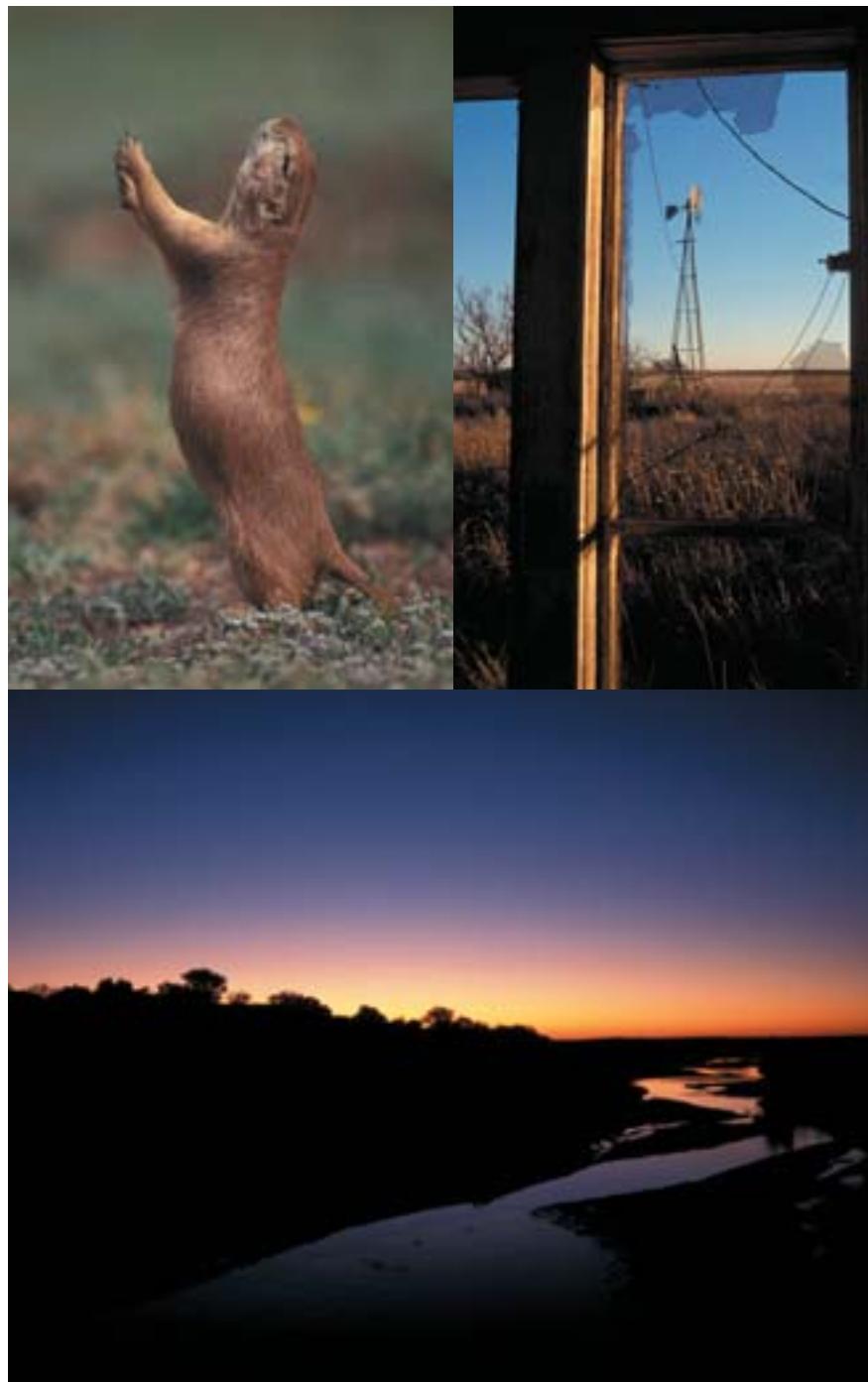
During the Dust Bowl we barely hung on.  
The north wind tried to blow us away.  
It seemed that the Lord took a likin’ to us.  
He kept turnin’ up ways we could stay.

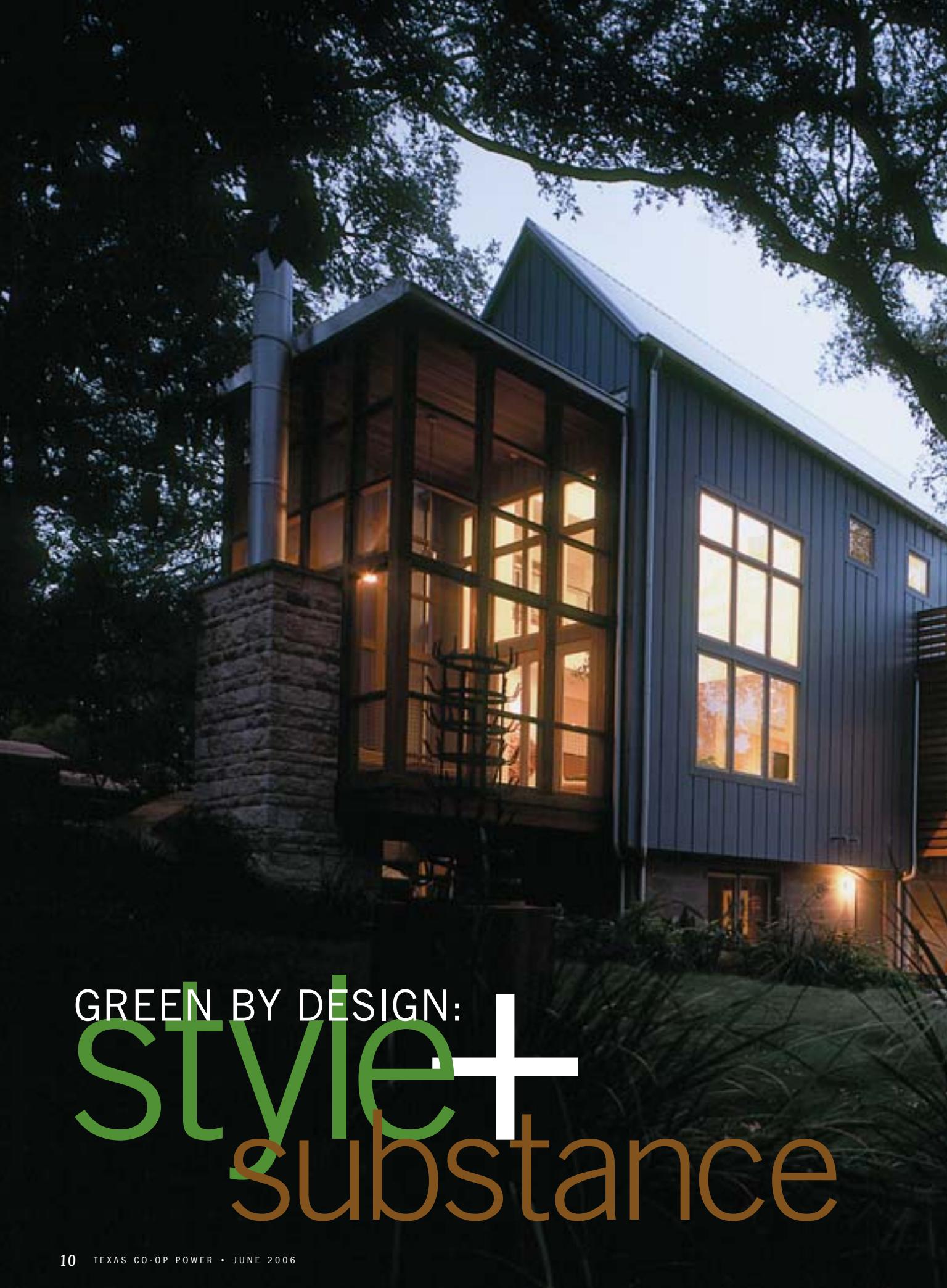
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Russell A. Graves is a professional photographer who also teaches agriculture at Childress High School.

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**TOP:** Prairie dogs are more prolific than precious rain in this part of Texas. **BOTTOM:** The Pease River was the site of many battles between settlers and Indians in the 1800s.





GREEN BY DESIGN:  
**style + substance**



**D**esigned to reduce waste, lower energy usage, and create the most healthy living environment possible, “green” homes are appealing to an ever-larger audience. At a time when much new construction is dominated by a short-term “cheapest-per-square-foot-possible” mentality, green building represents a return to the traditional practice of building to last.

When James and Kati Cowels began planning their new house in Austin, they knew little about green building. But like an increasing number of homeowners, their goals of comfort, efficiency and healthy living led them to consider green alternatives. Thanks to a proliferation of technologies, materials and information, green homes are increasingly becoming mainstream. Once synonymous with a lifestyle considered alternative, if not extreme, today green-built homes are often indistinguishable from conventional homes. And because green homes are made by following basic design strategies, virtually any type or style of house can be green—from traditional to modern, modest to luxurious.

The Cowels’ house exemplifies an aspect of green building that is sometimes overlooked—building to last. “Sometimes people overlook building well when they consider what is sustainable,” says Kati. “We have had engineers tell us that this is a 200-year house.”

Most of what makes the house green is hidden, demonstrating that the final look and feel of a green home can vary widely. Although this house is beyond the budget of many homebuyers, the design principles can be applied to modest homes. Green building is more about good planning than anything else, and most of the goals of green building can be attained with conventional materials.

One of the first questions McKinney Architects of Austin asked was which trees the Cowels felt passionate about keeping. Their answer was simple: “All of them.”

It’s easy to see why they sometimes call their home “the tree house.” Formed by two long, peaked rectangles connected by a glass-walled stairwell, the house is tucked just under the canopies of several giant oaks, visible through the glass walls for an up-close-and-personal view of the trees’ inhabitants. “Sometimes I’ll look out the window and there will be a bird or a squirrel right there,” says James. “They just look at me like, what are you doing here?”

The Cowels are surprised by the praise and recognition their home has received for both design and green-ness. It is only the 23rd home to earn a Five Star designation from the rigorous Austin Green Building Program.

“It didn’t take that much effort,” Kati says of the house that was completed last summer. “We wanted a healthy home and to build responsibly, but we were surprised when we earned such a high rating.”

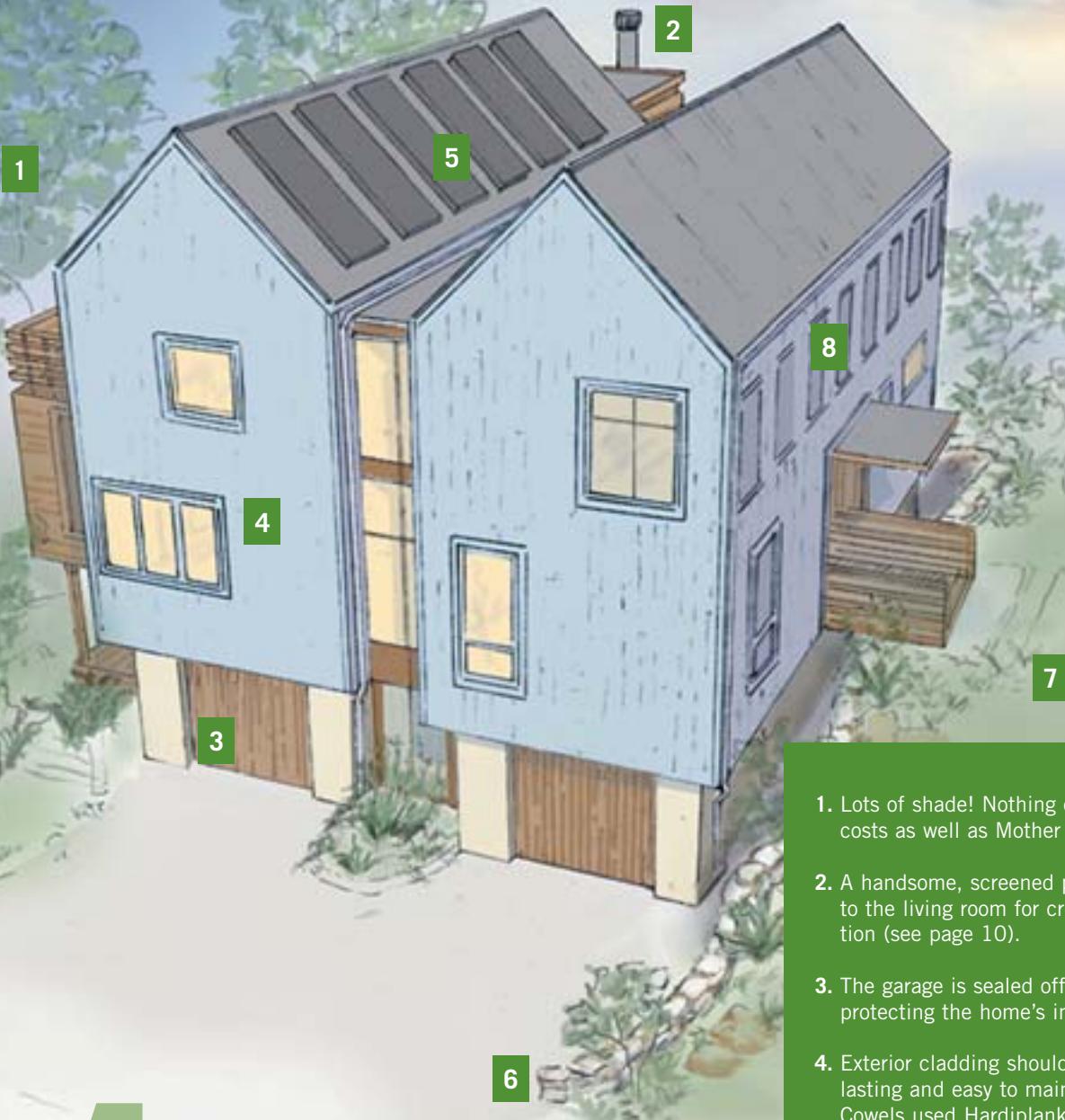
The Cowels and I sit in three of four overstuffed chairs in the living room, one end of a shotgun configuration that includes a large, open kitchen and breakfast area. The ceiling is 21 feet above us. A row of glass doors folded in accordion fashion creates a seamless transition to the attached screened porch. A breeze stirs leaves on massive oak trees in the backyard. It whispers in from the porch, across our chairs and through giant north-facing windows. White walls reflect a calm, even light that filters in from every direction.

The truth is that building green is affordable, accessible and rewarding.

---

Jody Horton is a writer and photographer based in Austin. He is fascinated by green building.

# going green



MARILYN DUDDEN

Many of the Cowels' green material choices were driven by aesthetic and practical considerations. For the exterior cladding, they picked Hardiplank®. Layered vertically—a style developed by Brian Carlson at McKinney—it had a clean Scandinavian-modern feel, especially after they painted it pale blue. "It references metal, but it's much softer," says Kati. An exterior surface that requires virtually no maintenance was an easy sell to James. The use of Icynene, a state-of-the-art, spray-in-place insulating foam in the walls and attic space, also appealed to Carlson's sense of effi-

cency. By virtually eliminating air penetration, it makes the space much easier to heat and cool.

All paints are low in volatile organic compounds. (VOCs have been determined by the EPA and the State of Texas to be linked to asthma and other respiratory problems.) The ventilation system has return air units in all rooms with doors to ensure even heating and cooling throughout.

A change in elevation provided a good place for the 1,200-gallon rainwater cistern. Tucked just behind the retaining wall below the screen porch, it is intended to feed a small

1. Lots of shade! Nothing cuts cooling costs as well as Mother Nature.
2. A handsome, screened porch opens to the living room for cross-ventilation (see page 10).
3. The garage is sealed off and vented, protecting the home's indoor air.
4. Exterior cladding should be long-lasting and easy to maintain. The Cowels used Hardiplank®, a cement-like composite material available through home material suppliers.
5. Solar panels provide renewable power while shading the roof.
6. The retaining wall uses limestone recycled from the original site.
7. Three-fourths of the lot is natural and landscaped for low water use. Native buffalo grass is used for turf.
8. Windows are small where direct sunlight hits, large on the north side and along the central corridor, where they provide natural light without solar gain.



2 TOP PHOTOS: JODY HORTON



GREG HURSLEY



GREG HURSLEY

flower garden that is still in the planning stages. The remaining acreage was left in its natural state or landscaped with native and low water-consumption plants.

Another feature tucked into the landscape is the house's evaporative condenser. Installed by Allied Energy Systems, the Thermal-Flow is essentially a scaled-down version of a commercial cooling tower. Located several yards from the house and hidden by shrubs, the unit achieved the Cowels' goal of having a quiet AC (the only noise is the faint sound of cascading water) while providing cooling that is 30 percent more efficient than conventional systems.

Still another hidden green element is a photovoltaic array providing 3 kilowatts of supplemental electric power. Located on the south face of the most northern roof, it provides the added benefit of shading on one of the few portions of roofline that doesn't fall below a canopy. Accessible from a roof hatch in the top of the stairwell corridor, the system is invisible from street level.

With a second child on the way during the home's planning stages, the Cowels were particularly concerned with issues of indoor air quality. To avoid adhesives and formaldehyde found in most conventional cabinetry, they settled on a composite material created from wheat stalks. When Kati learned that toxic vapors from parked cars can rise into living spaces above, they decided to seal off the two bottom-level carports and installed a ventilation system to evacuate stagnant air. "We keep discovering that most of these problems have simple solutions," says Kati. "It's just a question of finding them."

Maybe the most green quality of the house is that it was built to last—and last.

"And now, many of these products have become mainstream," says Heather McKinney, principal architect. "This house doesn't shriek 'alternative lifestyle' at all."

**TOP, LEFT:** Recycled limestone adds an earthy touch to the home. **RIGHT:** The Cowels chose a top-of-the-line rainwater cistern, but thrifty plastic ones are also available.

**MIDDLE:** The house emits a warm glow at night. **BOTTOM:** The main floor has an appealing open plan.



GREG HURSLEY

## work with nature

If “location, location, location” is the mantra of the real estate agent, then “orientation, orientation, orientation” is the mantra of the homebuilder. This should be taken into account when planning or modifying a house. No absolutes apply. Instead, a house should be designed to fit its surroundings, lot and climate. Heating and cooling, ventilation and lighting are the principal concerns. The overall goal is to create the most comfortable space possible with the least amount of energy expenditure.

### Consider the Sun

In Texas, heat is the greatest challenge. On average, cooling and heating account for 44 percent of a typical house’s energy consumption. Because the most direct and intense rays come from the east and west, wall and window square footage should be minimized on these sides. When possible, a combination of natural and man-made shading can be used to reduce the amount of heat your house absorbs.

In the northern hemisphere, the sun’s path is closer to the horizon in winter and at its highest in the summer. When a house has proper window height and appropri-

ate length and angle of overhang, direct sunlight may be blocked in summer but allowed to enter windows in winter to promote passive heating.

A house’s northern exposure offers natural light without glare or heat gain. Large windows positioned on the north side of the house allow for natural, even light.

### Catch a Breeze

Porches provide a cool, shaded place to sit and enjoy an evening breeze.

Position windows (that actually open) to catch the prevailing breeze in your area. You may be able to effectively cool your house for three or more months a year without resorting to an air-conditioning system.

Another form of passive ventilation is a cupola with operable windows. As hot air rises through a high open window, it draws cooler air in from windows below.

**The Cowels’ home in Austin is sited to work with nature.**

# resources

A seemingly endless supply of information on green building can be found online. Here are a few good websites to get you started.

## [www.ci.austin.tx.us/greenbuilder](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/greenbuilder)

Check out this comprehensive site for green design and building, including the Sustainable Building Sourcebook.

## [www.greenbuilder.com/sourcebook](http://www.greenbuilder.com/sourcebook)

Extensive information on products and processes with links to professional green designers and installers, plus retail outlets.

## [www.environmentaldepot.us](http://www.environmentaldepot.us)

An excellent source for building materials and home supplies.

## [www.environmentalhomecenter.com](http://www.environmentalhomecenter.com)

An easily navigable site providing lists of green materials as well as general information. Each listed product in the "shop" section has extensive information, including benefits and how-to information.

## [www.meridiansolar.com](http://www.meridiansolar.com)

Meridian, a leading dealer of solar panels in Texas, installs off-grid and supplemental systems throughout the state.

## [www.jameshardie.com](http://www.jameshardie.com)

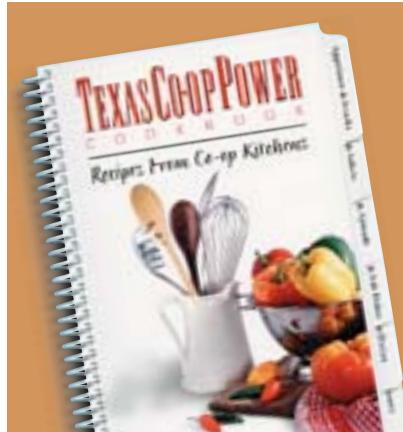
Find out more about Hardiplank® and other durable building materials at this site.

## [www.icynene.com](http://www.icynene.com)

Pourable and sprayable insulation can keep energy costs low.

### Commitment to Conservation

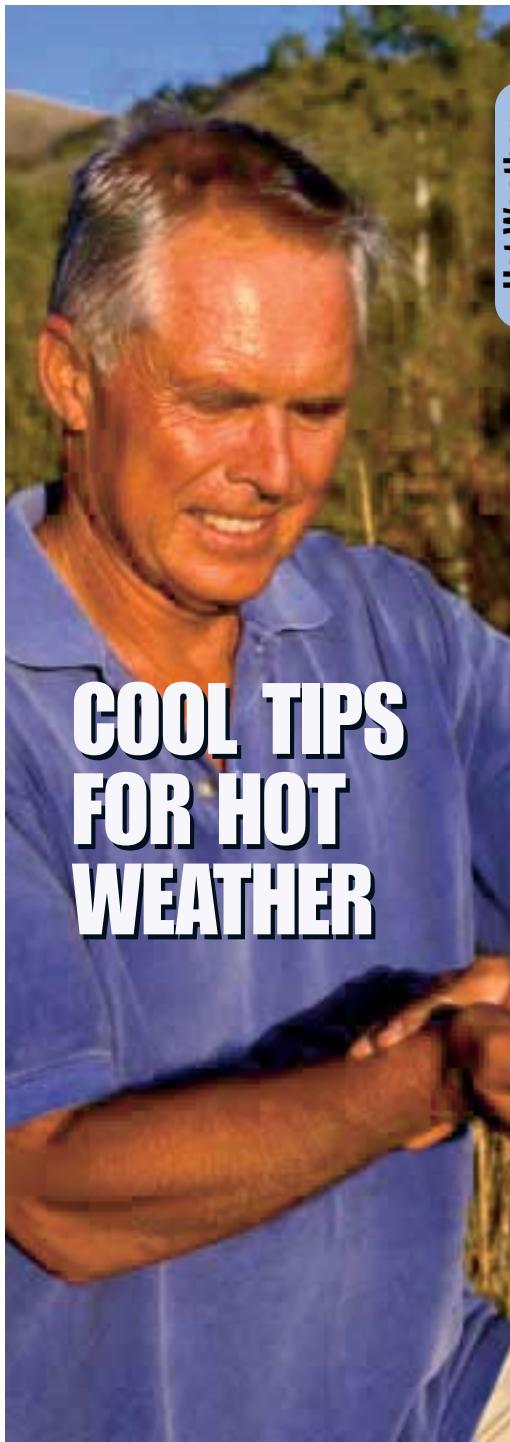
**Editor's Note:** A key mission of *Texas Co-op Power* is to provide readers useful information on energy conservation and energy issues. Because power prices are of great concern to all, we provide tips, articles or resources on reducing energy use and conserving natural resources in each issue of the magazine.



## FOUR STAR FARE for the LONE STAR STATE



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Hot Weather

### Keep cool—you could save a life

- Take frequent cooling-off breaks in the shade or air conditioning.
- Drink plenty of water before starting any outdoor activity, and drink water during the day. Drink less tea, coffee and alcoholic beverages.
- Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, light-colored clothes.
- Limit your physical activity during the hottest part of the day.
- Kids, cars and heat make a deadly combination. Never leave a child—or pet—in a vehicle, even for "just a few minutes." That's long enough for a closed vehicle to heat up to dangerous levels, even on a 60-degree day.

If someone has heatstroke-related symptoms—nausea, fatigue, muscle cramps, confusion, dizziness—act rapidly: Remove excess clothing and lower the person's temperature with cold, wet sheets or a cool bath. Call a doctor immediately and transport the person to the nearest hospital—this is an emergency. This summer, don't sweat it. Keep cool.



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## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FREE COOLING AT NIGHT

You can take advantage of cool night air to reduce your indoor temperature at almost no cost if you live in a region where the nights are cool. Every sunny, hot day charges your home with heat. You can remove this daily heat charge by circulating cool air through your home during the evening, nighttime and early morning.

The more air you move and the longer you ventilate, the more heat the cool air removes from your home. You can ventilate your home by either passive means, such as opening doors and windows, or by active means, such as fans. Most families use a combination of the two.

Nighttime cooling works best in climates where the summer nights are cooler than the days by at least 10-15 degrees. The greater

this temperature difference, the more air-conditioning cost you can save.

Take advantage of any outdoor



breeze by opening the doors or windows that will direct that moving air into your home. The outside air will be coolest on the shady side of your home or underneath trees or bushes. Install screens on the doors or windows you find work best for ventilation to keep bugs, leaves and debris from getting into your home.

Try using a portable box fan mounted in an open window, or a pedestal fan near an open door to blow air in the same direction as the natural ventilation flows.

Nighttime cooling works best if your home doesn't get overheated during the day. Close your doors, windows, shades and blinds in the morning when the outside air starts to heat up.

Source: John Krigger, Saturn Resource Management, [www.srmi.biz](http://www.srmi.biz)

## SOME GROUND-FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS DON'T WORK PROPERLY

A new study has found that a high percentage of ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) installed in homes didn't work when they were tested, and might not protect people from an electrical ground fault.

A ground fault can occur when current "leaks" from an electrical circuit—for example, through damaged wiring or a defective appliance. GFCIs are designed to detect ground faults and shut down the circuit if they occur.

The GFCI Circuit Breaker Field Study, sponsored by the Leviton Institute, reviewed data from 13,380 building inspections and found that 15 percent (on average) of GFCIs were inoperative when tested. The study looked at both GFCI circuit breakers and GFCI receptacles, and found simi-

lar failure rates for each. The data suggested that lightning strikes are one likely culprit in many inoperative GFCIs. The study found a much higher incidence of failure in areas where lightning is prevalent. In those regions, as many as 58 percent of GFCIs were found to be inoperative.

### How You Can Test a GFCI

If your home is equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupter receptacles, they should be tested monthly to ensure they are functioning properly. To conduct the test, simply follow these steps:

1. Plug a lamp or appliance into the GFCI receptacle.
2. Turn on the lamp or appliance.
3. Push the "TEST" button on the GFCI receptacle. If the GFCI is work-

ing properly, the procedure should turn off the power to the lamp or appliance.

**4.** Push the "RESET" button on the GFCI. This should return power to the GFCI receptacle and re-illuminate the lamp. If the power did not go off when you pushed the TEST button, there is an electrical problem that should be corrected by a licensed electrical contractor.

GFCIs don't last forever. Voltage surges from lightning, utility switching and other sources all take their toll on the units. That's why Underwriters Laboratories requires that GFCIs be tested monthly. However, the study suggests that many homeowners either aren't conducting these tests or are ignoring the results.

Source: Leviton Institute

# WHEN SHOULD YOU SHUT OFF THE LIGHTS?

Lots of people wonder whether it saves energy to turn their lights off every time they leave a room. The answer depends on two things: the type of lamp (the technical term for what most of us call light bulbs) in your fixtures, and how long you'll leave it off.

If you are still using old-fashioned incandescent lamps, then you should shut them off whenever you'll be out of the room for three or four minutes. But experts from the U.S.

Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory advise that fluorescent lamps are different, whether you are using the long tube-type fluorescents or the compact fluorescent lamps that screw into standard light fixtures. They suggest turning fluorescent lamps off only when you won't need them for 10 minutes or longer. The recommendations for

these two types of lamps are different because the lifespan of incandescent lamps isn't affected by the number of times they are switched on and off, while the lifespan of fluorescent lamps is slightly shortened every time they start up.

These recommendations account for the varying life span of fluorescent lamps, depending upon the number of hours they are used per start. For example, if you use a fluorescent lamp for three hours per



start, it will last for about 20,000 hours; if you use it for six hours per start, you'll get an increased lamp life of about 24,000 hours.

You also may have heard that switching off a fluorescent lamp doesn't save much energy because the savings are erased by a surge in current when it is first switched on. This isn't really true: There is indeed a startup surge, but it lasts only a fraction of a second and the energy consumption during this small time interval is negligible.

## APPLIANCE SAFETY IMPORTANT AROUND CHILDREN

Parents who plug protective covers into their home's outlets are taking the first step toward keeping their children safe from an electrical mishap. But if your youngsters watch you plug those covers in, don't be surprised when they figure out how to pull them all out!

We advise parents to limit their children's access to electrical appliances—even the ones that seem harmless. Children love to mimic their parents' activities. Keep that in mind whenever you're using a heated electric appliance like an iron, or one with blades or other sharp objects like a blender or can opener.

Ironing, for example, can look fun to a child. But left unattended, a "little homemaker" can suffer a severe burn or even start a fire.

Sometimes, devices that seem harmless to adults can harm a child. Your electric cooperative offers some tips:

- Operate appliances when children are not around.
- Store heated and sharp devices out of your children's reach.
- Search for appliances with child-proof "on" switches.
- Unplug sewing machines and other appliances when you're not using them.
- Install a lock on your oven door, not only to prevent burns from a hot oven, but also to keep children from putting toys in a cool oven that you may not discover until too late.
- When you do operate appliances in front of children, use them in a safe manner and teach youngsters how to use them safely.



**YOUR LOCAL  
ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE  
WISHES YOU A  
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY  
SUNDAY, JUNE 18.**

# Audie Murphy: Lone Star Hero

BY SHIRLEY RAYE REDMOND

**W**ar robs you mentally and physically; it drains you," Texan Audie Murphy once said during an Esquire magazine interview. "Things don't thrill you anymore. It's a struggle every day to find something interesting to do. It made me grow up too fast. You live so much on nervous excitement that when it is over, you fall apart."

Today, the man who earned more medals than any other American soldier would probably be diagnosed as having Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. During World War II, Murphy fought in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. He single-handedly killed more than 230 German soldiers and captured six enemy tanks, earning the Congressional Medal of Honor before the age of 21.

He knew a lot about thrills and struggle and falling apart. Born on June 20, 1924, Audie Leon Murphy was one of 11 children born in Hunt County near the township of Kingston. His parents were sharecroppers in an area where cotton was king.

"Poverty dogged our every step," Murphy once recalled. "As soon as we grew old enough to handle a plow, an ax or a hoe, we were thrown into the struggle for existence."

Armed with a rifle, little freckle-faced Audie supplemented the family's monotonous diet of biscuits and gravy, cornbread and molasses, with wild game.

When Pearl Harbor was bombed in December 1941, Murphy was eager to fight, but he was too young, only 17. He recalled that he was "half-wild with frustration. I was sure that it would all be over in a few months, and I would be robbed of the great adventure."

But on June 20, 1942, when Murphy celebrated his 18th birthday, the war was still raging overseas. A skeptical Army recruiter took one look at the puny 5-foot-5-inch, 110-pound teenager, and demanded that Murphy

bring proof of his age. Murphy left, fuming. He quickly returned with a certified copy of his birth certificate.

Historian Charles Whiting writes in *American Hero: The Life and Death of Audie Murphy*: "That afternoon Audie Leon Murphy was accepted into the infantry. The U.S. Army had just inducted its most famous soldier—ever."



Audie Murphy is the most decorated U.S. soldier in history.

For the Texas youth who'd endured a hardscrabble childhood, basic training wasn't all that bad. Murphy enjoyed three hearty meals a day and wrote to his sister: "I like the Army fine so far; they let you sleep in till 5:30. On the farm I had to get up at 4:00."

At first, Murphy's fellow recruits called him "Baby." But it wasn't long before they perceived that the tough little Texan had a will of steel. Twenty-eight months later, Murphy would be the only survivor of the original Company B assigned to the 15th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division.

A natural-born leader, Murphy advanced through the ranks as rapidly as he acquired medals for valor. Despite bouts with malaria and battle

wounds, Murphy demonstrated uncommon courage repeatedly on the battlefield, saving his men more than once from deadly German ambushes. Ultimately, he earned the rank of second lieutenant.

Actor James Cagney knew the young soldier could be a huge box office draw, and after the war's end, he invited Murphy to Hollywood.

The young veteran had no illusions about Tinseltown or about his acting ability. He once confessed to a reporter, "I can't make-believe worth a zinc cent." Nevertheless, Murphy made 44 motion pictures—including his two personal favorites, "The Red Badge of Courage" and "To Hell and Back," a film based on his 1949 bestselling autobiography.

The war did not leave Murphy unscathed. For the remainder of his life, he suffered from depression, moodiness, raging anger and compulsive gambling. He referred to his maladies as "battle fatigue." It is blamed for ruining his first, very brief marriage to actress Wanda Hendricks in 1949. His second wife, Pamela Archer, whom Murphy married in 1951, worried about her husband's chronic stomach ailments and insomnia. When he did sleep, Murphy had nightmares.

Murphy died in a private-plane crash in Virginia on May 28, 1971. His wife and two sons buried him with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

**Audie Murphy Day** observances are held June 16 and 17 in Farmersville and Greenville.

For more information regarding the 2006 festivities, contact the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum in Greenville (903) 454-1990 and the Main Street Program in Farmersville (972) 784-6846.

Shirley Raye Redmond, who lives in Los Alamos, New Mexico, writes history books for children and young adults.

Farmers Electric Cooperative is headquartered in Greenville.

# Grace Jones

A MOST ELEGANT LADY

BY LIZ CARPENTER

**A**lthough her name and fashion business were well known to me for quite some time, I first met Grace Jones in person in Washington, D.C. when I was working in the Johnson White House and she dropped by en route to Texas from a New York shopping spree. I was very conscious of her fame in my hometown of Salado.

It was an instant friendship because we had so many mutual friends among her clientele. Grace had handled all of the wedding clothes for then-Governor Dolph Briscoe's daughter and her bridal party, as well as the wedding fashions for the daughter of Ray Virginia Allen of Temple.

Who would not be intrigued with the elegant and glamorous former New York model who ran a successful high-fashion dress shop in the Texas village of Salado? I followed Grace's career closely—it was hard for me to believe anyone could make such a success in a tiny town of 1,000, give or take a few.

Salado is located, as the joke goes, "about a quarter of a mile from Resume Speed." That's true, but more accurately, it is 10 miles south of Belton and 50 miles north of Austin on Interstate 35. Grace Jones' dress shop opened in Salado in the early 1960s, after Grace and her husband, Jack, returned to the States from military tours of duty in Japan and Germany. In Salado's historic limestone, one-time bank building on Main Street, Grace transformed the interior with chandeliers and spacious private dressing rooms with handsome brocade chairs.

She never advertised her world-famous dress shop, but customers came by helicopter, car or on foot to see what she had brought back from the fashion capitals—New York City, Paris and Milan.

Grace traveled this shopping circuit twice each year and returned home with dresses earmarked for special customers like Lady Bird Johnson and her daughters, Luci and Lynda, and

several Texas governors' wives and their daughters, as well as Austin philanthropist Jane Sibley. Grace and her assistants studied each client and presented only the outfits they thought best suited the person. There were no racks of hanging selections until sale time.

I once took the late columnist Erma Bombeck to Grace's. We stayed all day shopping. We took time—Grace, Erma and I—to lunch on a picnic of sandwiches and cookies with our feet dangling in the bubbling spring behind the shop.

Grace liked simple, elegant lines and fine fabric. For most of her customers, she recommended clothes with a sophisticated look—no sequins because "they're too glitzy and show-offy," she would say.

She lured many top-name designers to "find Salado." Count Fernando Sarmi, a famous designer, once came from New York City. He was such a city slicker that he asked while gazing across a nearby pasture, "Is that a coo?" He was assured it was not only a "coo" but also one that could "moo."

What is Grace like, this woman who once epitomized East Coast glamour, who charmed men and women alike, who felt as comfortable in ranch work clothes as Pierre Cardin originals?

"Remarkable, elegant to her fingernails, serene, unhurried, unpretentious" are all words that come to mind when I think of Grace. Yet the résumé of her life is varied, and she is often very "down-home." Her photo albums show her at the family ranch in Rosanky helping brand a calf. Where else has she shown up?

She wanted to learn how to fly a plane, so she took lessons from Bobby Ragsdale of the Ragsdale Aviation School in Austin.

When World War II came, she



As a model, Grace Jones loved simple, elegant lines—the same sort of clothing she later sold in her Salado shop.

joined the women pilots at Avenger Field and ferried our giant planes cross-country.

In Germany, she was often the bridge partner of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

In Japan, she learned how to serve the traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony, and was known for mastering ceremonial correctness, an unusual talent for an American.

Grace still gives advice, but her famous shop—a landmark still—was turned over to her niece and nephew, John and Rhonda Rosanky, and their daughter, Micki, a year or so ago. They now sell furnishings to the unending stream of newcomers who move to settle in the country town just an hour north of Austin.

Where is Grace today? You can often spot her at one of the growing number of dinner restaurants in Salado. But mainly she is busy doing what all of us do in our senior years—sorting out the artifacts of our lives and wondering how we could have saved all that stuff.

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Liz Carpenter served as press secretary to Lady Bird Johnson during the Johnson White House years. She is a noted author and speaker living in Austin.

Bartlett EC serves the area around Salado.

# "aaah" VISITORS SAY AT HEALTH MUSEUM

BY BARBARA AND WESTON TWARDOWSKI • PHOTOS COURTESY THE HEALTH MUSEUM



The instructor in his white lab coat was carrying a dissected sheep larynx. "Do not touch, taste or smell. This is not 'Fear Factor,'" he warned. The audience exhaled a collective "Eww!"

I shrunk back into my seat and declined a closer examination as the young man passed by with the larynx in the theater aisle of the John P. McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Science (MHMS) in Houston.

Dissections are performed daily at MHMS, a member institution of the world-renowned Texas Medical Center in the heart of Houston's museum dis-

trict. Called the "Health Museum" for short, MHMS provides an entertaining and interactive science experience for all ages. By explaining how the human body works, the museum aims to help visitors develop a lifelong commitment to health and wellness.

The day we visited the museum, three busloads of summer campers spent the morning exploring the facility. Most of the programs offered at the Health Museum are designed for children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Kids are drawn to the Amazing Body

Pavilion where they walk through a Texas-sized human body. Inside are giant replicas: a 10-foot brain, 22-foot long backbone and 6-foot eyeball.

The pavilion includes dozens of hands-on exhibits, science stations and giant models of human organs. At one station, a child grabs hold of a rope and tugs. He keeps tugging. A full three minutes pass before he reaches the end of his 27-foot-long rope—the same length as the small and large intestines found in the human body. By playing at another station with cranks, children learn how the heart has to work harder

Children enjoy the super-sized body displays at the Health Museum.

when the arteries are clogged, as compared to a healthy heart.

Every summer, the Health Museum unveils a new traveling exhibit. "It's a Nano World: Smaller Than a Spot on a Ladybug" opened May 27 and continues through September 10. The exhibit offers visitors an opportunity to learn about really, really tiny things—ones impossible to see with the human eye—and the tools that scientists use to view them.

Grab a friend and look at each other through the "Giant Magnification Glass." Does your friend's nose look bigger? Now see what your skin, hair and fingers look like up close at the "Scope on a Rope" station. Young visitors can also jump into the "Giant Blood Drop," a pit of thousands of small red plastic balls. The size of the pit represents a drop of blood, and each ball represents a red blood cell. Kids will discover how difficult it is to find a white blood cell. When you watch the "Powers of Ten" film by Ray and Charles Eames, you will feel like you are traveling from space to Earth, to a picnic in Chicago, and then into a person's hand.

When visitors explore the Nano exhibit, they learn that a speck of dust can be carried almost halfway around the world by the wind. In fact, dust from Mongolia has been detected in Arizona. They also learn that about 1 billion (1,000,000,000) bacteria would fit on the head of a pin. Inside the average computer are tiny wires that are about 1/1,000 the width of a strand of hair.

The Health Museum's Amazing Body Store has a great collection of wacky items. You can pick up a giant gelatin mold of a brain—the recipe for the jiggle dessert is on the back of the box. Ever feel like you've lost your mind? Keep a spare one in your pocket. A wind-up, walking toy brain is a bargain.

It is finally okay for kids to stick a pencil up a nostril, if they buy the 99-cent sharpener that is the size of an adult nose. Don't like pencils? A syringe-shaped pen includes blood-red ink.

Giant, stuffed microbes are 1 million times the actual size of a microbe

and come in purple, yellow and orange. The Male Nurse Action Figure may not be as well-known as G.I. Joe or Spiderman, but he might inspire a career choice.

Never have anatomy lessons been more fun.

---

More than 1.5 million people have visited the Health Museum, at 1515 Hermann Drive, approximately 15 minutes from downtown Houston. It is open seven days a week during the

summer, and closed on Mondays during the spring and fall. Many programs are offered in Spanish. Admission is \$6 for adults (18-64), \$4 for seniors (64 and up) and children (4-17). Children under age four are free. During "Free Family Thursdays" admission is waived from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Parking is also free.

Visit [www.museumofhealth.org](http://www.museumofhealth.org) or call (713) 942-7054.

Freelance travel writer Barbara Twardowski collaborated with her 14-year-old son, Weston, on this article.



A giant ribcage from the inside.

# Out of the Blue(berries)



## **Homemade Waffles With Blueberry Sauce**

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1 tablespoon sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt  
3 eggs, separated  
 $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups milk  
5 tablespoons shortening, melted

Stir together flour, baking powder, sugar and salt; set aside. Beat together egg yolks, milk and shortening; blend into flour mixture until smooth. Stiffly beat egg whites; fold into batter. Pour  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup batter onto preheated waffle iron; bake as manufacturer directs. Drizzle with Blueberry Sauce. Serves 6.

## **Blueberry Sauce**

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar  
1 tablespoon cornstarch  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup water  
2 cups blueberries  
1 tablespoon butter

Combine sugar and cornstarch in a saucepan; stir in water. Bring to a boil over medium heat; boil for 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Add berries. Reduce heat and simmer for 8 to 10 minutes, until berries burst. Stir in butter until melted. Serve warm.

## **Peach-Blueberry Crumble**

4 cups peaches, pitted, peeled and sliced  
1 cup blueberries  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar, divided  
2 tablespoons cornstarch  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup packed brown sugar  
1 cup quick-cooking oats, uncooked  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon cinnamon  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon nutmeg  
1 egg, beaten  
4 tablespoons butter, sliced

Gently toss together fruit,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar and cornstarch in a 2-quart baking dish; set aside. Combine remaining ingredients. Stir with a fork until crumbly; sprinkle over fruit mixture. Bake at 375 degrees for 20 to 35 minutes, until topping is golden. Serves 6 to 8.

**A**mong the sweetest of summer's indulgences are blueberries, those tiny bursts of flavor that can dye your teeth (and everything else) blue! These little gems are not only tasty, but also beneficial for your health (rich in antioxidants and associated with healthy aging). And they're delicious in just about every way they're used, whether topping breakfasts and desserts, or baked into breads and muffins.

A couple of great blueberry ideas come from the folks at The Gooseberry Patch, a mail-order company that specializes in country-style and vintage housewares that are hard to find anywhere else ([www.gooseberrypatch.com](http://www.gooseberrypatch.com)). They also publish terrific cookbooks, including a new one called *Get-Togethers With Gooseberry Patch: Food To Bring Family & Friends to the Table*, which provided the luscious blueberry recipes on this page.



**I**t's summer, and you know what that means: berry season! Time to make the most of this delectable time of year and eat as many blueberries as you can. Because blueberries are both sweet and tart, they work perfectly with a wide range of ingredients, so our readers had no trouble finding lots of creative and delicious ways to use blueberries in this month's recipe contest—much to the delight of our recipe testers.

JENNIFER KIMBERLY's tasty recipe for Blueberry Delight won this month's contest. Jennifer is a member of Comanche Electric Cooperative.

### Blueberry Delight

1¼ cups graham cracker crumbs  
 ¼ cup melted butter  
 ½ cup powdered sugar  
 2 eggs  
 1 cup sugar (divided)  
 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese  
 1 cup fresh blueberries  
 ½ cup water  
 2½ tablespoons cornstarch  
 8 ounces whipping cream

Mix graham cracker crumbs, melted butter and powdered sugar. Press into an 8x8-inch pan. Beat eggs; add ½ cup sugar and cream cheese. Mix well. Pour over crust. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes. In saucepan, mix water, ½ cup sugar and cornstarch. Cook until thick. Cool, then add blueberries.

Spread over cream cheese layer. Whip whipping cream and spread on top. Chill. Serves 16.

Serving size: 1 square. Per serving: 233 calories, 3 grams protein, 14 grams fat, 25 grams carbohydrates, 124 milligrams sodium, 66 milligrams cholesterol

### Blueberry Tea Cake

2 cups sifted flour  
 2 teaspoons baking powder  
 ½ teaspoon salt  
 ¼ cup butter or margarine  
 ¾ cup sugar  
 1 egg, unbeaten  
 ½ cup milk  
 1-2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries

Sift flour, baking powder and salt together; set aside. Cream butter; gradually beat in sugar. Add egg and milk; beat until smooth. Add dry ingredients slowly, then gently fold in blueberries (batter will be very stiff). Spread batter in greased and floured 8-inch square pan. Sprinkle Crumb Topping evenly on top of cake and bake 40 to 45 minutes in 375-degree oven. Serves 16.

### Crumb Topping

½ cup brown sugar  
 ¼ cup flour  
 ½ teaspoon cinnamon  
 ¼ cup butter or margarine

Mix brown sugar, flour and cinnamon. Cut in butter until it forms coarse crumbs (smaller than a pea).

Serving size: 1 square. Per serving: 180

calories, 2 grams protein, 6 grams fat, 29 grams carbohydrates, 196 milligrams sodium, 28 milligrams cholesterol

GRACE J. McDANIEL  
 Karnes Electric Cooperative

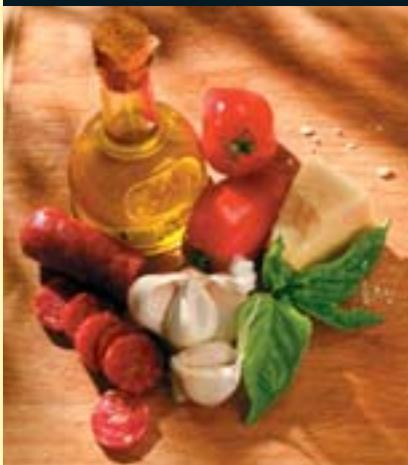
### Blueberry-Cream Cheese Coffee Cake

½ cup butter or margarine, softened  
 1¼ cups sugar  
 2 large eggs  
 2 cups all-purpose flour  
 1 teaspoon baking powder  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 ¾ cup milk  
 ¼ cup water  
 2 cups fresh blueberries  
 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened and cubed

Beat butter at medium speed with an electric mixer until creamy; gradually add sugar, beating well. Add eggs one at a time, beating after each addition.

Combine flour, baking powder and salt; stir well. In separate bowl, combine milk and water. Add flour mixture to butter mixture alternately with milk mixture, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Mix at low speed after each addition until blended. Gently stir in blueberries and cream cheese cubes, mixing well. Pour batter into greased 9-inch round pan. Sprinkle Topping over batter. Bake at 375 degrees for 50 minutes or until golden. Drizzle

### SEPTEMBER RECIPE CONTEST: ITALIAN COOKING



**A**re you lucky enough to have Italian recipes as part of your family's heritage? Or do you just make a mean linguini? Either way, we want your recipes! Send your favorite Italian Cooking recipes to Home Cooking, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704. You may also fax them to (512) 486-6254 or e-mail them to [recipes@texas-ec.org](mailto:recipes@texas-ec.org). Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, as well as the name of your electric co-op. The deadline is June 10.

The top winner will receive a prize from Pioneer—an old-fashioned tin filled with Pioneer products like baking mix, gravy mix and chili mix (see photo at right). Others whose recipes are published will also receive



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Make checks payable to: Texas Electric Cooperatives. Send \$18.75 for each cookbook to: Cookbook, Attn: Tracy Paccone, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704.  
[www.texascooppower.com](http://www.texascooppower.com)

Glaze over top of warm cake. Serve cake warm or at room temperature. Yields 12 servings.

### Topping

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup all-purpose flour

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar

2 tablespoons grated lemon rind

2 tablespoons butter or margarine, softened

Combine all ingredients and stir well with a fork.

### Glaze

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup powdered sugar

2-3 teaspoons milk

$\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon vanilla

Combine all ingredients; stir or beat with a wire whisk or spoon until smooth.

Serving size: 1 wedge. Per serving: 415 calories, 6 grams protein, 18 grams fat, 59 grams carbohydrates, 392 milligrams sodium, 80 milligrams cholesterol

PATTY ALLCORN

Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative

### Blueberry Cookies

2 cups flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

$\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup shortening

1 cup sugar

1 large egg

1 teaspoon almond extract

$1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons grated lemon zest

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup milk

1 cup fresh blueberries

Sift together dry ingredients into a bowl. Cream shortening and sugar; beat in egg, almond extract and lemon zest. Add dry ingredients to mixture, alternating with milk. Blend well. Fold in blueberries. Cover bowl and refrigerate at least 4 hours. Drop by tablespoon onto greased cookie sheet and bake at 375 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes. Yields approximately 32 cookies.

Serving size: 1 cookie. Per serving: 87 calories, 1 gram protein, 3 grams fat, 13 grams carbohydrates, 67 milligrams sodium, 6 milligrams cholesterol

CONNIE HANSON SKILES

Pedernales Electric Cooperative

# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

## Holiday Recipe Contest

### \$5,000 in Total Prizes!

SPONSORED BY



**Grand-Prize Winner Takes Home \$3,000.  
Four Runners-Up Will Each Win \$500.**

We're looking for the best recipes from your holiday celebrations. All recipes must be original and the ingredients must include a Pioneer Brand product such as Pioneer Brand Gravy Mix, Pioneer Brand Biscuit & Baking Mix, or Pioneer Brand Frozen Biscuit or Roll Dough. For a complete list of Pioneer products, visit the Holiday Recipe Contest link at [www.texascooppower.com](http://www.texascooppower.com). Winners will be announced in our December issue.

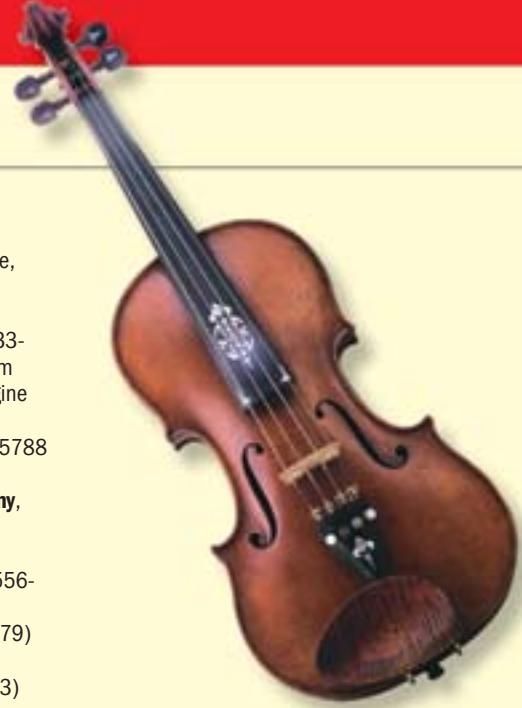
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Up to three entries are allowed per person. Each should be submitted on a separate piece of paper and include your name, address and phone number, plus the name of your electric cooperative. All entries must be postmarked by September 8, 2006. Send entries to Holiday Recipe 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 Recipe Contest" in the subject line and submit one recipe per e-mail (no attachments). For official rules, visit Holiday Recipe Contest at [www.texascooppower.com](http://www.texascooppower.com) or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the address above.

# June

- 2-3. Oakland Fireman's Festival, **Weimar**, (979) 725-9511 or [www.weimartx.org](http://www.weimartx.org)  
 2-3. Rodeo, Parade and Dance, **Madisonville**, (936) 348-1300 or [www.sidewalkcattlemen.com](http://www.sidewalkcattlemen.com)  
 2-3. Texas Bluegrass Celebration, **Brownwood**, (325) 646-8531 or [www.earlychamber.com](http://www.earlychamber.com)  
 2-4. Heritage Balloon Festival, **Palestine**, (903) 723-1914 or [www.museumpalestine.org](http://www.museumpalestine.org)  
 2-4. City Celebration, **Post**, (806) 495-3529 or [www.oldmilltradedays.com](http://www.oldmilltradedays.com)  
 3. Pioneer Day, **Jacksboro**, (940) 567-5410  
 3. Car Show, **Bandera**, (830) 589-2609  
 3-4. Rural Heritage Days, **Seguin**, (830) 379-1122  
 4. Sacred Heart Spring Picnic, **Flatonia**, (361) 865-3568 or [www.destinationflatonia.com](http://www.destinationflatonia.com)  
 8-10. Robert E. Howard Days, **Cross Plains**, (254) 725-6562  
 10. Czech Kolache Klobase Festival, **East Bernard**, (979) 335-7907  
 10. Pioneer Days, **Orange Grove**, (361) 384-1300  
 10. Volunteer Fire Department BBQ and Auction, **DaCosta**, (361) 575-4959  
 10. Texas Zoo's 30th Birthday Celebration, **Victoria**, (361) 573-7681 or [www.victoriatexasinfo.com](http://www.victoriatexasinfo.com)  
 10. Uncle Fletch's Burger and Barbecue Cook-Off, **Athens**, (903) 520-3595  
 10. Fire-Ant 100K Bicycle Tour, **Gatesville**, (254) 865-6265 or [www.bicycletexas.com/fireant100k.htm](http://www.bicycletexas.com/fireant100k.htm)  
 10. Tomato Fest, **Jacksonville**, 1-800-376-2217

- or [www.jacksonvilletexas.com](http://www.jacksonvilletexas.com)  
 10. Texas Water Safari, 260-mile canoe race, **San Marcos**, 1-888-200-5620 or [www.sanmarcoscharms.com](http://www.sanmarcoscharms.com)  
 10-11. Lavender Festival, **Blanco**, (830) 833-5101 or [www.blancolavenderfestival.com](http://www.blancolavenderfestival.com)  
 11-12. North Texas Antique Tractor and Engine Show, **Terrell**, (214) 341-4539  
 11-17. Bach Festival, **Victoria**, (361) 570-5788 or [www.victoriatexasinfo.com](http://www.victoriatexasinfo.com)  
 15-17, 22-24. Fort Griffin Fandangle, **Albany**, (325) 762-3838 or [www.fortgriffinfandangle.org](http://www.fortgriffinfandangle.org)  
 16-17. Riata Roundup, **Lampasas**, (512) 556-5172 or [www.lampasaschamber.org](http://www.lampasaschamber.org)  
 16-17. Juneteenth Celebration, **Weimar**, (979) 725-9511 or [www.weimartx.org](http://www.weimartx.org)  
 16-17. Audie Murphy Days, **Greenville**, (903) 450-4502 or [www.cottonmuseum.com](http://www.cottonmuseum.com)  
 17. Juneteenth Celebration, **Huntsville**, (936) 291-1626  
 17. Blues on the Hill, **Harlingen**, (956) 216-5950  
 17. T-Bone Walker Blues Fest, **Linden**, (903) 756-9934 or [www.musiccitytexas.org](http://www.musiccitytexas.org)  
 17-18. Ricebelt Antique Tractor Pull and Show, **El Campo**, (979) 543-9498  
 17-18. Juneteenth Celebration, **San Marcos**, 1-888-200-5620 or [www.sanmarcoscharms.com](http://www.sanmarcoscharms.com)  
 18-24. 40th Annual Jim Bowie Days, **Bowie**, (940) 872-0150  
 20-24. Western Days Festival, **Elgin**, (512) 285-4515  
 23-25, 30-July 2. Star of the Hills historical drama, **Wimberley**, [www.emilyann.org](http://www.emilyann.org)



Fiddle bows will be blazing at Driftwood's Camp Ben McCullough for the Dayton Roberts Memorial Old Time Fiddlers Contest on June 23.

23. Dayton Roberts Memorial Old Time Fiddlers Contest, **Driftwood**, (512) 560-3829  
 23-25. Last Frontier Heritage Celebration & Buffalo Soldier Living History Encampment, **Morton**, (806) 266-5484  
 24. Polski Dzien (Polish Day) Festival, **Bremond**, (254) 746-7055 or [www.cityofbremond.com](http://www.cityofbremond.com)  
 24. Country Fair and Homecoming, **Venus**, (972) 366-3110  
 24. Genealogy & History Fair, **Huntsville**, (936) 435-1932 or [www.wcgen.com](http://www.wcgen.com)

FESTIVAL OF THE MONTH BY JIM GRAMON

## Texas Blueberry Festival: June 10, Nacogdoches



COURTESY BRUCE PARTAIN

**N**acogdoches will once again be painting the town blue the second weekend in June for the 17th annual Texas Blueberry Festival. They are celebrating the local harvest and all things blue and blueberry. The town, which stakes a claim for being the oldest in Texas, is on US Hwy. 59, 20 miles north of Lufkin.

I'm betting that a number of you didn't know that Texas (especially Nacogdoches) has a thriving blueberry industry, enriched by the rich red soil of southeast Texas.

Each year thousands of folks enjoy the fun, food and music of this harvest celebration. Events take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 10, in scenic downtown

Nacogdoches. Admission is free. Blueberry farm tours are available via free shuttles from the festival.

Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce President Bruce Partain says this is "the most delicious festival in Texas." Who can doubt him when there's a blueberry pancake breakfast, pie-eating contest, ice cream-making and cobbler-making contests and much more?

For more information, call Nacogdoches Convention & Visitors Bureau, 1-888-OLDEST-TOWN, or go to [www.TexasBlueberryFestival.com](http://www.TexasBlueberryFestival.com). It's a good idea to check with the festival sponsor in case of changes in the schedule.

Jim Gramon is the author of FUN Texas Festivals & Events. [Jim@JimGramon.com](mailto:Jim@JimGramon.com), [www.JimGramon.com](http://www.JimGramon.com).

24. Annual Czech Youth Day, **La Grange**,  
1-888-785-4500 or [www.czechtexas.org](http://www.czechtexas.org)
24. San Saba County Sesquicentennial Celebration and Cow Camp Cook-Off, **San Saba**,  
(325) 372-5733 or [www.sansabachamber.com](http://www.sansabachamber.com)
24. Summer Music Festival and Bull Blowout,  
**Bellville**, (979) 865-5995 or  
[www.austincountyfair.com](http://www.austincountyfair.com)
- 24-25. Texas Hill Country Railfair and Festival,  
**Burnet**, (512) 477-8468
- 30-July 1. Freedom Fiesta, **Seguin**,  
(830) 379-6382 or [www.seguintx.org](http://www.seguintx.org)

## July

1. Independence Day Celebration, **Kyle**,  
(512) 268-4220 or [www.cityofkyle.com](http://www.cityofkyle.com)
1. Tomato Festival, **Avery**, (903) 684-3825 or  
[cityofavery.com](http://cityofavery.com)
1. July Jubilee, **Leakey**, (830) 232-5222 or  
[www.friocanyonchamber.com](http://www.friocanyonchamber.com)
3. Johnny Dee and the Rocket '88s Sock Hop,  
**Canyon Lake**, (830) 964-2324
- 3-4. Crape Myrtle Festival and Driving Trail,  
**Waxahachie**, (972) 937-2390
- 3-9. Spring Ho Festival, **Lampasas**, (512) 556-5301 or [www.lampasaschamber.org](http://www.lampasaschamber.org)
4. Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration,  
**Huntsville**, (936) 295-8113 or
4. Fourth of July on the River Concert, **Kerrville**,  
(830) 792-8387
4. Summerfest, **San Marcos**, 1-888-200-5620  
or [www.sanmarcoscharms.com](http://www.sanmarcoscharms.com)

S A F E   L I V I N G

## Older Home Wiring Can Be Dangerous

**O**ne-third of all homes are more than 50 years old, and half are at least 30 years old. Even if you use energy-efficient appliances, in an old home, you're probably using more and bigger appliances than an older home is equipped for.

According to Consumer Reports, you may want to consider a promising new technology called an arc-fault circuit interrupter—or AFCI—which detects arcs at low levels of current that wouldn't trip a circuit breaker. The devices are installed in the circuit-breaker panel. They do offer added protection for older wiring.

4. Independence Day Celebration, **Beaumont**,  
(409) 880-3163 or [www.beaumontcvb.com](http://www.beaumontcvb.com)
4. Parade, **Harlingen**, (956) 245-5005
4. Turtle Race, **Mount Pleasant**, (903) 572-1705
4. Fireworks Fantazmagoria, **Jefferson**, 1-888-GO-RELAX or [www.jefferson-texas.com](http://www.jefferson-texas.com)
4. Salute to America, **Onalaska**, (936) 646-5000 or [www.cityofonalaska.us](http://www.cityofonalaska.us)
4. Fireworks Display, **Jacksonville**, 1-800-376-2217 or [www.jacksonvilletexas.com](http://www.jacksonvilletexas.com)

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., August submissions must be received prior to June 10. Events are listed according to space available. We appreciate photos with credits but regret that they cannot be returned.



Boating

Did you know that people who hunt or fish from boats have one of the highest boat fatality rates? Or that more people die from falling off small boats (16 feet and under) than larger ones?

### Safety Rules for Boating:

- Be weather wise. Bring a portable radio to check weather reports.
- Bring extra gear you may need. A flashlight and extra batteries, matches, map, flares, first aid kit, sunglasses and sunscreen should be kept in a watertight container or pouch.
- Tell someone where you're going, who is with you, and how long you'll be gone.
- Ventilate after fueling. Open the hatches, run the blower, and carefully sniff for gasoline fumes in the fuel and engine areas before starting your engine.
- Anchor from the bow, not the stern. Use an anchor line at least five times longer than the water depth.
- Know your boat's capacity. Don't overload it or put an oversized motor on it.

Have fun on the water.  
Boat safely!



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## Long Summer Days, Lots of Summer Fun

**S**ummer is a magical time for kids—school is out, days are long and unhurried, and water (lots of it, if possible) beckons with its refreshing coolness. It's no wonder that most of the photos we received depicted youngsters splashing their way to fun, fun, fun. Come to think of it, summer fun brings out the “kid” in most of us, doesn't it?

Classic Vehicles is the topic for our August issue. Send your photos—along with your name, address, daytime phone, co-op affiliation and a brief description—to Classic Vehicles, Focus on Texas, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704, before June 10. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must be included if you want your entry returned (approximately six weeks). Please do not submit irreplaceable photographs—send a copy or duplicate. We regret that Texas Co-op Power cannot be responsible for photos that are lost in the mail or not received by the deadline. If you use a digital camera, e-mail your highest-resolution images to focus@texas-ec.org. (If you have questions about your camera's capabilities and settings, please refer to the operating manual.)

◀ **BOSCO**, an American pit bull terrier, loves how cool he looks in his goggles and life vest! JOSH SMITH and CARRIE MECCIA, who belong to CoServ Electric, say he also likes to swim in warm weather.



Sometimes it's the simple beauty of nature that makes summer fun. Big Country Electric Cooperative member ALETA LONG captured that in this photo of her son, CASEY, as he fished for bass on Hords Creek Lake at sunset.



BTU members SKIPPER and BRENDA HARRIS shared this photo of son SKYLAR barefoot skiing on the Brazos River. “Skylar was only 8 years old when this photo was taken,” reports his mom. “Now, at 10, he continues to love barefootin’ as well as wakeboarding, kneeboarding, skiing and tubing.” ▶



◀ Summertime fun for “city kid” RYAN SALAZAR is climbing trees, sometimes with a goat, on his grandparents’ farm. “We’re not sure how the goat feels about sharing his tree!” said grandparents and Pedernales Electric Cooperative members ROY and WILMA SWANN.

◀ What's more fun than three superheroes romping down a country lane? Four-year-old triplets AUSTIN, TYLER and MAGUIRE are the grandsons of JIMMY and NORMA CAMERON, Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative members.

### UPCOMING in Focus on Texas

ISSUE	SUBJECT	DEADLINE
August	Classic Vehicles	June 10
September	Murals	July 10
October	Scarecrows	August 10
November	Mailboxes	September 10
December	Christmas Morning	October 10
January	Extreme Weather	November 10



## Quilt Legacy in Fairfield



LAVERNE BRACKENS OF FAIRFIELD

### QUILTMaking IS IN LAVERNE BRACKENS' BONES.

Since the end of the Civil War, her family of quilters from the East Texas town of Fairfield has continued an African-American tradition that stretches back 200 years to the time of slavery. The women in Brackens' family don't create conventional, squared-off quilts. "I don't go by patterns," she says. "I make it up out of my head. When you pick up the material and start working with it, that's when you know what [the quilt] will be."

If you happen to be out California way before July 23, you can catch "Will the Circle Be Unbroken: Four Generations of African-American Quiltmakers," an exhibit of the Fairfield family's work at the Museum of Craft and Folk Art in San Francisco. [www.mocfa.org/exhibitions/index.htm](http://www.mocfa.org/exhibitions/index.htm).