

LOCAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE EDITION

APRIL 2008

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

PADDLE POWER



P L U S

The Toyota Texas Bass Classic

Cooking with Canned Soups

**Hit the Road:
Gonzales to Goliad**

When your land is their future



We're the answer.



*Invest in a place for your children.
Preserve a piece of Texas.
Keep it in the family.*

Whatever your reason for buying rural land, Capital Farm Credit can finance it. And we also share our earnings — we've returned more than \$100 million to our borrowers.

FINANCING FOR

Rural Land • Country Homes • Farms and Ranches • Livestock and Equipment • Operating Capital



Part of the Farm Credit System

CapitalFarmCredit.com

877-944-5500



T E X A S ' L A R G E S T R U R A L L E N D E R

April

2008

VOLUME 64 NUMBER 10



FEATURES

10 Paddle Power

By Larry Bozka

For game fishing, bird watching or simply feeling at one with nature, the kayak helps humans feel as if they are creatures of the sea.

16 The Lure of Lake Fork

Story and Photos by Jody Horton

After last year's great success, the Toyota Texas Bass Classic again weighs anchor in East Texas waters.

FAVORITES

Footnotes By Kaye Northcott Bob Bullock 37

Recipe Roundup *Cooking with Canned Soups* 38

Focus on Texas *Smiles* 43

Around Texas *Local Events Listings* 44

Hit the Road By Camille Wheeler *Gonzales to Goliad* 46



TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Texas Co-op Power is published by your electric cooperative to enhance the quality of life of its member-customers in an educational and entertaining format.

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS: **Greg Jones**, Chair, *Rusk*; **Ray Beavers**, Vice Chair, *Cleburne*; **Darren Schauer**, Secretary-Treasurer, *Gonzales*; **James Calhoun**, *Franklin*; **Steve Louder**, *Hereford*; **Gary Nietsche**, *La Grange*; **William "Buff" Whitten**, *Eldorado*

PRESIDENT/CEO: **Mike Williams**, *Austin*

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: **Roland Witt**, Chair, *Coleman*; **Bill Harbin**, Vice Chair, *Floydada*; **Roy Griffin**, *Edna*; **Kim Hooper**, *Bluegrove*; **Steve Young**, *Hamilton*; **Robert A. Loth III**, *Fredericksburg*; **Melody Pinnell**, *Crockett*

COMMUNICATIONS STAFF: **Martin Bevins**, Sales Director; **Carol Moczygemba**, Executive Editor; **Kaye Northcott**, Editor; **Suzi Sands**, Art Director; **Karen Nejtek**, Production Manager; **Andy Doughty**, Production Designer; **Sandra Forston**, Communications Assistant; **Melissa Grischkowsky**, Communications Coordinator; **Kevin Hargis**, Copy Editor; **Shannon Oelrich**, Food Editor; **Dacia Rivers**, Field Editor



“I made the right choice”

My name is Donald.
This is my story.

“I had just recently retired from the military when I learned I had prostate cancer. I researched many hospitals and procedures, and decided robotic prostate surgery was the best option for me. I chose Scott & White because of their excellent reputation, and state-of-the-art technology and treatment. Thanks to Scott & White, my life was far from over.”

Scott & White is a **leader in robotic prostate surgery**—technology that can **reduce pain and speed recovery** for patients with prostate cancer. This procedure uses robotic technology to make the surgeons’ skillful hand movements even more precise.

One in six American men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during their lifetime. This cancer is curable with early diagnosis and treatment. See your doctor or call Scott & White today at 888-724-8649.

Visit sw.org to learn more about robot-assisted surgery and read the rest of Donald’s amazing story.



SCOTT & WHITE

Your Choice. The Trusted Choice.

CHARMING TOUCHES™

A Bradford Exchange Fine Jewelry Exclusive

♥ 17 individual charms
with shimmering Swarovski®
crystals and 18K-gold plated
accents in one stunning bracelet

Heartfelt Wishes for a Precious Daughter

Let your daughter know how deeply you
care with our exclusive Italian charm bracelet
all put together and ready to wear ...

Featuring delicate hanging charms, charms with
finely sculpted motifs, and beautifully engraved
"wish" charms from the poem below with a color-
ful Swarovski® crystal representing each wish.

A daughter is Heaven's gift ... a precious blessing
who brings endless joy. And, of course, you want
only the very best for her. Now, you can celebrate
that special bond with the "My Daughter, I Wish
You Italian Charm Bracelet"—a beautiful jewelry
creation that will let your daughter know just how
deeply you care, and what wonderful hopes and
dreams you have for her.

Genuine Swarovski® Crystals and Rich 18k-Gold Embellish Seventeen Italian Charms

Exclusively designed and exquisitely hand-crafted,
our "My Daughter, I Wish You Italian Charm
Bracelet" features seventeen individual, and
interchangeable, stainless steel charms. Each charm
sparkles with colorful genuine Swarovski® crystals
and gleams with 18k-gold-plated accents. Some
have delicately hanging charms or finely sculpted
charms. Still other charms have touching, etched
wishes with colorful Swarovski crystals representing
each wish. Stunning day or night, the flexible
bracelet expands to fit any size wrist.

Exquisite craftsmanship ... Exceptional Value

With our exclusively designed Italian charm bracelet,
we've saved you the search for individual charms and
the cost! Your charm bracelet comes ready to wear,
in a custom-design gift box with Certificate of
Authenticity, backed by our unconditional 120-day
guarantee. At just \$99*, it's a great value and you
can pay for it in 4 installments of \$24.75. To reserve
your bracelet, send no money now; just fill out and
mail the Reservation Application. But hurry this a
limited-time offer!

My Daughter I Wish You Life's Greatest Blessings ITALIAN CHARM BRACELET



MY DAUGHTER, I WISH YOU

- ♥ When you're lonely, I wish you Love ...
- 😊 When you're sad, I wish you Joy ...
- 🌟 When you're discouraged, I wish you Hope ...
- 🌸 When your spirit is low, I wish you Beauty ...
- ☺ When you're troubled, I wish you Peace.

Poem written by
Jerry Knoll ©1983 Abbey Press Poem

LIMITED-TIME OFFER

Reservations will be accepted on a
first-come-first-served basis. Respond
as soon as possible to reserve your "My
Daughter, I Wish You
Italian Charm Bracelet."



Shown actual size

RESERVATION APPLICATION THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the "My Daughter, I Wish You Italian
Charm Bracelet" for me as described in this announcement.

Signature _____

Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____
Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address _____

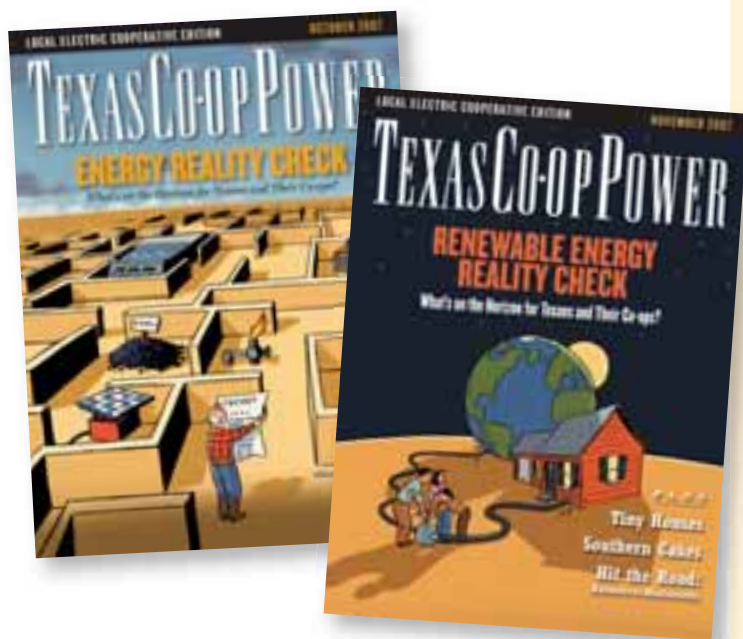
City _____

State _____ Zip _____

01-02730-003-E54891

*Plus \$7.98 shipping and service per item. Please allow 4-6 weeks after
initial payment for shipment of your bracelet. Sales subject to product
availability and order acceptance.

POWER TALK



AND THE WINNER IS...

Texas Co-op Power magazine and Editor Kaye Northcott walked away with the Oscar of statewide electric cooperative magazines, the George W. Haggard Memorial Journalism Award, at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual meeting in Anaheim, California, in February.

In presenting the honor, NRECA CEO Glenn English noted the "Energy Reality Check" series in the October and November 2007 issues, saying, "*Texas Co-op Power* succeeded in its goal to present the complexity of current and future electricity generation in a clear, engaging fashion."

He praised Northcott for her commitment to educating Texas' co-op members about the hard issues the industry faces with increasing demand, diminishing reserves and the implications for future electricity generation posed by climate change legislation.



Save Energy by Easy Cooking

I have the Salad Master pots and pans, but others will do. Cook rice on high to boiling point and then turn off burner. Put lid on and it will cook on its own. The same goes for potatoes, eggs, etc. It saves money and power.

L.M. MALEK, *LaGrange*
Fayette Electric Cooperative

letters



MEDICAL ARTICLE ON TARGET

What a wonderful surprise was awaiting me as I walked into my office this morning—a copy of the February 2008 edition with the incredible cover photo of Dr. Robert Allen Youens. Not only was I impressed with the photo, the article was first-rate. You captured the spirit of rural physicians.

SHANNON MCBRIDE
Administrator

Colorado-Fayette Medical Center
Fayette Electric Cooperative

COACH AN INSPIRATION

I am writing to say how much I enjoyed reading Jean-Cosme Delaloye's article, "The Coach from Amarillo," in the January issue. As the mother of a deaf daughter who inspires those around her every day, it was especially meaningful to me to read about Coach Tankersley. What a wonderful story!

SUZANNE LABRY

Pedernales Electric Cooperative

TEEN PRESSURE BEHIND PIERCING

Regarding the [February] article "Piercing Moments" by Sheryl Smith-Rodgers, I would like to challenge the idea that parents' approval of a daughter's requests for piercing or other fads among her teen peers is somehow allowing her to "find herself and be herself, to be independent and confi-

dent, wise and ambitious," as in the paragraph near the end of the article. Going along with teen peer pressure is not a sign of "independence, confidence and wisdom," in my opinion.

What has happened to the idea that adults have the right to withhold permission for things that underage dependents want to do to their bodies? Perhaps helping teens to see that they're merely trading "dependence on their parents" for "dependence on their peers" would be more helpful to the kids' maturing process toward true adult independence.

GEORGIA M. WEBER

Pedernales Electric Cooperative

SUNSHINE TREAT

I believe June Naylor's ["Hit the Road"] article in February missed one very important place in Junction for dining. I have a small ranch outside of Junction, and every time I come and go from San Antonio I always stop in at the Sunshine Bakery and Café and get the best hamburger and banana pudding I have ever eaten.

DARYL TANNER

Pedernales Electric Cooperative

DON'T CAGE CATS

I'm very disappointed that you ran "2 Sisters Raise 3 Cougars" as your cover story for January 2008.

These animals are meant to be wild. For your magazine to join in the exploitation of them is simply wrong. Not to mention the fact that by running this story you will be giving another stupid person somewhere the idea that it is OK to keep these animals in captivity.

PAM ROBERTSON

Fentress

We want to hear from our readers. Send letters to: Editor, *Texas Co-op Power*, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704, e-mail us at letters@texas-ec.org, or submit online at www.texascoopower.com. Please include the name of your town and electric co-op. Letters may be edited for clarity and length and are printed as space allows. Read additional letters at www.texascoopower.com.

H A P P E N I N G S

If you grew up in Texas, you've probably done lots with mesquite trees—thrown the pods at your little brother, impaled your finger or foot on a thorn, eaten Dad's brisket smoked over the wood, or even sucked on seeds for the bittersweet pulp. One thing you probably haven't done, though, is made art out of them. Members of the Texas Mesquite Association, however, do just that, and you can find their works at the

TEXAS MESQUITE ART FESTIVAL in San Angelo, April 18–20. From dining tables to salt and pepper shakers, mesquite artists create household objects and high art from Texas' own hardwood. This juried show represents the best in the field and gives beginners a place to show off their handiwork as well.

Held at Fort Concho, this art show will present the largest collection of mesquite art in the world. If you miss this event, a second festival will be held in Fredericksburg on October 10–12. For more information on the art festival, visit the Texas Mesquite Association's website, www.texasmesquiteassn.org, or call (830) 997-8515.

PHOTO COURTESY TEXAS MESQUITE ASSOCIATION



NEW LIFE FOR SOMERVELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Originally constructed in 1893 at a cost of \$13,500, the Somervell County Courthouse was built of locally quarried limestone in the Romanesque Revival style. The building featured design elements characteristic of the General Grant style, specifically, a mansard roof treatment, a clock tower and ornamental iron crests. In 1902, a tornado caused extensive damage to several buildings on the Glen Rose square, including the courthouse. The roof



and clock tower were critically damaged, but the county did not have the funds necessary to repair their intricate design. Instead, local craftsmen fixed the roof modestly and cheaply, omitting the clock tower and ornate crests. In 1986, the Somervell County Commissioner's Court voted to restore the courthouse back to its original splendor, bringing back the clock tower and decorative iron elements. —From *The Courthouses of Texas*, Texas A&M University Press, second edition, 2007

LITTLE TOWN, BIG PRESERVE

When Mineola, population 5,611, was required by the state to upgrade its waste-treatment plant, the city ended up not only with a new plant but a 2,900-acre nature preserve along the Sabine River as well. That's more than half an acre per citizen!

Contractors and enthusiastic volunteers, working with grants from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, are finished with Phase I. They built a pavilion overlooking a wildlife area and cleared 3 miles of nature and walking paths, much of it along an abandoned railroad bed. There's fishing and camping and plenty of wild critters from bluebirds to wolves. Phase II includes an

equestrian trail.

E.F. Whitus, a city council member, is an enthusiastic volunteer. He says the preserve has a feeder to attract deer—just for observation, of course. There's also a resident alligator named Taylor in the wetlands area and on higher ground, a herd of longhorn cattle and five bison.



WHO KNEW?



HORTICULTURAL HOMETOWNS

The Texas Legislature has designated the following places as the official state "capitals" of some of the prettiest plants in Texas.

BURNET AND LLANO COUNTIES—Bluebonnet
ENNIS—Bluebonnet City
DENTON—Redbud
GEORGETOWN—Red Poppy
HEARNE—Sunflower
ROUND ROCK—Daffodil
SANDERSON—Cactus
TEMPLE AND DEWITT COUNTY—Wildflower
WAXAHACHIE—Crape Myrtle

Texas Co-op Power (USPS 540-560) is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). Periodical Postage Paid at Austin, TX and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 74 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power's* website is www.texascoopower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or e-mail knorthcott@texas-ec.org.

Subscription price is \$3.84 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50. Individual copies and back issues are available for \$3 each.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Texas Co-op Power* (USPS 540-560), 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704. Please enclose label from this copy of *Texas Co-op Power* showing old address and key numbers.

ADVERTISING: Advertisers interested in buying display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 30 sister publications in other states, contact Martin Bevins at (512) 486-6249.

Advertisements in *Texas Co-op Power* are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication. Product satisfaction and delivery responsibility lie solely with the advertiser. Direct questions or comments about advertising to Martin Bevins, Sales Director.



© Copyright 2008 Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © Copyright 2008 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Texas Electric Cooperatives
 Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Real Money Trees

East Texas, with its millions of acres of piney woods, is a prime destination for carbon credit entrepreneurs.

By Carol Moczygemba



Whether or not you agree that we are experiencing global climate change, it's a political reality. There's an ongoing debate about the best approach to regulating "greenhouse gases," such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), that occur naturally in the earth's ecosystem, but increasingly come from the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal.

One method for regulating CO₂ emissions is carbon sequestration, the capture and storage of CO₂. Although there are many very expensive technologies that can accomplish this goal, one is available right in our own back yards.

Trees naturally take in and store carbon dioxide as part of photosynthesis. As agents of carbon sequestration, forests of young trees, which grow in abundance in East Texas, are candi-

dates for eligibility as "carbon credits." Each credit represents a single metric ton of sequestered CO₂.

The Texas Forest Service was recently approved as the first state forestry agency in the nation authorized to verify carbon offset projects, the first step toward landowners' participation in a carbon exchange program. Landowners then work with an aggregator on the price to be paid per carbon credit. That price, just as with cattle or corn, will change with market conditions.

Last December a carbon credit was worth about \$1.85. But last April, the value was up to \$4. The European price is \$30 because of tighter restrictions on carbon emissions.

The financial institution that sanctions aggregators is the Chicago Climate Exchange® (CCX), which facilitates trades much like the stock market. The CCX was founded in 2003 by several corporations that agreed to reduce their carbon emissions by 6 percent by the end of 2010. If their reduction efforts fall short of this and their interim goals, they can purchase carbon credits at the CCX to offset the shortfall.

Last September, a number of aggregators came to the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Overton to convince a gathering of mostly East Texas landowners that there is economic opportunity in climate change for those who own trees. East Texas, with its millions of acres of piney woods, is a prime destination for carbon credit entrepreneurs.

Carol Moczygemba is executive editor of Texas Co-op Power.

CARBON CREDIT PILOT PROGRAM

Under a Carbon Credit Pilot Project involving the Chicago Climate Exchange, AgraGate Climate Credit Corp.—solely owned by the Iowa Farm Bureau—and local aggregators, forest landowners who meet certain conditions can receive payments for carbon stored since 2003, as well as annual payments through 2010.

Forest landowners who meet the following criteria should consider participating:

- Have planted pine on open land since January 1, 1990.
- Have a minimum of 250 pine trees per acre.
- Are willing to commit to maintaining 250 pine trees per acre.
- Do not plan to harvest or thin trees until 2011.
- Understand that some or all income may have to be paid back in case of a disaster event or a rule change/clarification.
- Are willing to accept the shortcomings of a pilot program.

For more information, contact AgraGate Climate Credit Corp.'s office in West Des Moines, Iowa, at 1-866-633-6758, or its representative in Texas, Gary Clos, at (936) 465-1736.

ENJOY THE SOUND EVEN MORE.

The highly reviewed Bose® Wave® music system
is available with an optional Multi-CD Changer.

When the Bose Wave® music system was introduced, Jonathan Takiff of the *Philadelphia Daily News* said, "This sleek, compact music maker couldn't be easier to operate. Yet sophisticated technology hidden inside makes this an extraordinary performer." Today, the system offers you even more, thanks to an optional Multi-CD Changer that has been designed exclusively for the Wave® music system.

Elegantly small, with sound that brings new life to music. Hear the Wave® music system for yourself. *Forbes FYI* says, "you'll think you're listening to a...system that costs five times more." You can even connect your TV or MP3 player for lifelike sound.



The Wave® music system
shown in Graphite Gray.

As David Novak, the Gadget Guy, says, "It can easily replace whatever component system you currently have." And the Wave® music system fits almost anywhere.

The optional Multi-CD Changer lets you enjoy premium sound for hours on end.

Just slide one of your favorite CDs or MP3 CDs into the Wave® music system and three more into the Multi-CD Changer. They work as one to deliver performance after encore performance with quality that *Newsday's* Stephen Williams says made him "sit up and listen and smile."

All-in-one simplicity. A credit card-style remote control lets you easily operate both the Wave® music system and Multi-CD Changer. It's a convenience you'll appreciate when playing CDs or MP3 CDs, tuning into FM/AM radio or setting the clock and alarm.

Take advantage of our 30-day, risk-free trial. Order the Wave® music system today. Better yet, order it with our Multi-CD Changer. With our Excitement Guarantee, you'll get 30 days to try them together in your own home.

Take advantage of this opportunity to compare the sound to larger, more expensive stereos. And when you call, ask about making **12 easy payments**, with no interest charges from Bose.* The Wave® music system and Multi-CD Changer. From Bose, the most respected name in sound.

**FREE
shipping
with your
order.**

To order or learn more:

1-800-925-9738, ext. TM236
www.Bose.com/WMS

BOSE®
Better sound through research®



Shown with optional Multi-CD Changer.

*Bose payment plan available on orders of \$299-\$1500 paid by major credit card. Separate financing options may be available for select products. See website for details. Down payment is 1/12 the product price plus applicable tax and shipping charges, charged when your order is shipped. Then, your credit card will be billed for 11 equal monthly installments beginning approximately one month from the date your order is shipped, with 0% APR and no interest charges from Bose. Credit card rules and interest may apply. U.S. residents only. Limit one active financing program per customer. ©2008 Bose Corporation. Patent rights issued and/or pending. The Wave® music system's distinctive design is a registered trademark of Bose Corporation. Financing and free shipping offer not to be combined with other offers or applied to previous purchases, and subject to change without notice. Risk free refers to 30-day trial only and does not include return shipping. Delivery is subject to product availability. Quotes reprinted with permission: Thomas Jackson, *Forbes FYI*, Winter/04.

PADDLE



Whether your aim is to enjoy the peace and solitude of Texas waters or to sneak up on some tasty fish, a kayak is the perfect platform. The quiet, nonpolluting mode of aquatic transport has been catching on in a big way with outdoors enthusiasts. **BY LARRY BOZKA**

BOATS TEND TO SHRINK IN RELATION TO the size of the waters they occupy. By that measure, my 12-foot kayak might as well be a dried-out oak leaf drifting across the mirrored, sprawling surface of San Antonio Bay north of Rockport.

Piled atop the horizon like a mile-high cluster of stained and waterlogged cotton balls, a colossal, anvil-shaped thunderhead is slowly sliding across

the expansive mid-coast bay's easternmost fringe. Mercifully, the storm is headed offshore. Sunlight leaks through thin blue cracks in the clouds, each one spilling pastel streaks of pink, orange and purple onto the shimmering bay's shallow and reef-laced waters.

Come springtime on the Texas Coastal Bend, mountainous cloud formations such as this are classic early morning

signatures. Montana, it's safe to say, holds no monopoly on "Big Sky Country."

From the tiny village of Fulton down State Highway 35 through Rockport—and farther to the south, the waterfront communities of Aransas Pass and Port Aransas—it must be virtually impossible not to see the swollen and billowing squall line vividly punctuating the advent of the late-April sunrise.

POWER



LARRY BOZKA

Seeing an angry weather system from the ground is one thing. Observing it from the plastic seat of a kayak smack-dab in the midst of a gargantuan lagoon is altogether another.

I could just as easily be viewing the super-sized seascape from my vee-hulled fiberglass bay boat, the same 21-foot rig that transported my kayak across Aransas Bay, up the Gulf Intracoastal

Waterway past Ayers Dugout, into the entrance of Mesquite Bay north of Cedar Bayou and beyond.

Still, the encounter wouldn't be nearly the same. Not by a long shot.

The intimacy of coastal kayaking is indescribable, particularly to those who have yet to experience it. Not surprisingly, the number of enthusiasts who regularly enjoy the peaceful, calming

serenity of open-water paddling is rising like an incoming storm tide.

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, kayak participation nationwide doubled in the six-year span between 1998 and 2004. On the Texas sport-fishing front alone, some 2,000 new participants a month are entering the vast and amazingly untamed arena of saltwater angling. Motivated by a



LARRY BOZKA

Without a noisy motor, a kayak can allow wildlife observers to get up close and personal with nature. Anglers have embraced the watercraft, too. The boats have room for poles and gear and can quietly maneuver into waters larger craft cannot navigate.



TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE/EARL NOTTINGHAM

variety of reasons, from featherweight, near-effortless portability to remarkable affordability, a rapidly increasing number of the state's rod and reel-wielding newcomers are taking to the bays and flats via kayak.

Be it on the Coastal Bend, Baffin Bay or the Lower Laguna Madre, shallow-water gamefish are extremely skittish creatures. For the half-million-plus Texas anglers who avidly pursue redfish, speckled trout and other popular inshore species, kayaks are the boating equivalent of stealth fighters.

All the same, despite their surging popularity as angling platforms, the scope and utility of the diminutive paddle-powered boats infinitely transcends the quest for the perfect catch. Coastal kayaking possibilities are as limitless as the water.

Silent as the wind, unexpectedly stable, light enough to navigate otherwise inaccessible habitats and incredibly durable, modern "sit-on" kayaks open seamless natural windows to a mind-boggling array of shorebirds and scenery.

For many, kayaking is not so much a sport as it is a spiritual retreat. It's intriguing, even awe-inspiring, to stab a sharp-bladed paddle into the olive-green waters of the same coves, flats and tidal pools that centuries ago were probed by canoeing tribes of Karankawa Indians.

No matter the mission, whatever the motivation, ocean kayaking has become the fastest-growing water sport on the western Gulf Coast. What was once an oddity is now an obsession for tens of thousands of devoted saltwater paddlers.

Elsewhere this morning, a rainbow-hued armada of dedicated kayakers is tracing the shorelines and inlets of the Coastal Bend. Some rented their craft. Others brought their own kayaks and launched from a host of points that grant easy access to paddle-friendly locales. Yet others, yours truly included, launched their "big boats" solely as vehicles to transport their favorite kayaks.

A well-known bird-watching boat, the 40-foot-long Skimmer, provides yet another option to intrepid Rockport-area kayakers. Owned and operated by Capt. Tommy Moore and moored at Fulton Harbor, the touring vessel doubles as a kayak transport on select bay excursions.

Drawing a scant 2 1/2 feet of water, Moore's "mothership" (continued on page 14)



Fishing kayaks are designed for a diversity of gear.

PHOTOS: LARRY BOZKA

KAYAK DESIGNS

Among the innovators of Texas coastal kayaking, Capt. Sally Moffett ranks as a bona fide pioneer. Moffett kicked off her guiding career in 1998 and immediately began to explore and promote the now-popular pastime of paddling the state's bays and flats.

The personable Rockport-based pro possesses a remarkably in-depth understanding of the diverse little watercraft. Kayaks, she explains, fall within one of three basic design categories.

SIT-ON-TOP

"A sit-on-top kayak is typically styled like a platform," Moffett says. "Just as the name implies, the paddler sits on top of the boat as opposed to being enclosed inside of it.

"This style of kayak makes for easy and quiet entries and exits," she adds, "which is really great for both wade fishing and bird-watching. Sit-on-top kayaks are particularly popular in warm-water environments."

Sit-on-top kayaks range from \$350 to \$1,200, plus accessories.

SIT-INSIDE

"A sit-inside kayak requires the paddler to sit down inside the kayak's 'cockpit,' an enclosed area that can be 'skirted' to keep the paddler completely dry," Moffett says. "They are generally round-bottomed and are not as stable as sit-on-top designs."

For reasons of comfort and dryness, sit-inside kayaks are preferred by paddlers who frequent cold-water environments or who tend to tour long distances.

"Sit-inside kayaks are designed for easy and smooth gliding, thereby allowing the paddler to cover sizable stretches of water," Moffett says. "Certain manufacturers now offer sit-inside kayaks that have enhanced stability," she notes, "making those particular models good choices for all types of recreational purposes."

Sit-inside kayaks range from \$500 to over \$4,000, plus accessories.

PEDALING

The newest breed of kayak, pedaling kayaks, incorporate ingenious pedaling systems that provide hands-free and extremely fast propulsion.

"Pedaling kayaks work great in lake, river or bay environments, where the passenger is pedaling in a foot of water or more," Moffett says. "They allow for 'hands-free' operation. Anglers love that," she points out, "because they can move from one spot to the next, continually casting, without ever touching a paddle."

Pedaling kayaks range from \$1,500 to \$2,000, including accessories.

ASK CAPTAIN SALLY

Via her website, www.captainsally.com, Moffett offers some kayaking-related specifics and advice. To ask her a question, send an e-mail to sally@captainsally.com or call (361) 205-0624.

—Larry Bozka

RENTAL

Advice abounds for the kayaking novice. Kayakers are on the whole a cooperative and generous lot, especially when it comes to lending their expertise and recommendations to information-hungry newcomers.

There is, however, one tip in particular that's irrefutable.

If you are looking into kayaking, or intend to buy one, start out with a rental.

Aside from providing an intimate paddle-in-hand experience for those who have yet to try the sport, renting a kayak—or preferably, several different kayaks—allows potential customers to try various hull designs and models before making an investment.

In tandem with a continuously expanding collection of manufacturers and models, a growing community of rental operations allows motivated kayak shoppers to do just that.

Following is a list of some of the Coastal Bend's premier kayak rental facilities:

ARANSAS PASS

- **Port A Kayak**
1-888-396-2382
www.portakayak.com

- **Slowride Guide Services & Kayak Rentals**
(361) 758-0463 1-866-856-9477
www.slowrideguide.com
www.texas-kayak-fishing-school.com

CORPUS CHRISTI

- **Trula B – Capt. Norm Baker**
(361) 949-1673
www.trulab.com/kayaking.htm

PORT ARANSAS

- **South Bay Bait & Charters**
(361) 758-2632
www.fishportaransas.com

ROCKPORT-FULTON

- **Jubilee Guide Service**
(361) 727-9835
www.jubileeguideservice.com
- **Rockport Kayak Rentals**
(361) 790-6205
E-mail: jvalero@awesomenet.net
- **Rockport Birding and Kayak Adventures**
1-877-TX-BIRDS (892-4737)
www.rockportadventures.com

Kayak rentals are also available at select Texas state parks. For information on specific locales, call the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at 1-800-792-1112.

—Larry Bozka

(continued from page 12) ferries kayakers across Aransas Bay to remote locales on the grassy outside fringes of San José Island. For paddlers who don't own bay boats to carry their kayaks, the Skimmer presents a first-class ticket to isolated getaways that teem year-round with native and migratory wildlife.

Some Skimmer passengers bring their own kayaks. Others rent from Moore. Either way, no matter how it's procured, no matter where and how it's cast adrift, a quality kayak reserves a unique front-row seat to the Texas Coast's most enthralling vistas.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Coastal Paddling Trails represent some of the finest. TPWD offers maps for each of the seven existing trails, and all are marked with signage to help novice explorers stay on the right track.

The department website (www.tpwd.state.tx.us) contains a wealth of information, including a comprehensive list of the existing trails and details on each, put-in and takeout points, GPS coordinates, water-safety advice, maps and helpful references to kayak-related reading materials and resources.

Bob Spain, TPWD coastal conservation coordinator, is the state's leading authority on the Coastal Paddling Trail network. "Our goal is simply to provide more recreational opportunities for the public," Spain said. "Many of our areas, like the Lighthouse Lakes Paddling Trail near Aransas Pass, are ecologically sensitive. Kayaks allow visitors close-up but low-impact looks at the habitat. Aside from that," he said, "they let their occupants see wildlife that they'd never get the chance to see from a boat with an outboard engine."

The nonchalant demeanor of a mature great blue heron prowling the bank less than 30 feet away is living testimony to Spain's assessment. Tiny whirlpools spin outside the paddle blades and funnel past the stern as I quietly enter the regal shorebird's territory.

The closer I get, the more I realize how tall a full-grown heron stands. Then again, it may just be that this little red boat of mine seems smaller than ever.

Journalist and photographer Larry Bozka of Seabrook is an expert on salt-water fishing.



TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE/CHRIS HUNT

HOME • FARM • RANCH

WE'RE THE Y'ALLTERNATIVE TO THE OTHER GUYS

Because we're all about y'all

Everything's bigger in Texas. So why do most insurance companies make their customers feel so small? If you're fed up with the way your insurance company has been treating you, it's time you called the Texas-based, member-owned insurance company that's been putting its members first for the past 100 years. At RVOS, we're "The Y'allternative." Because we know y'all deserve nothing less.

1.800.381.0867 • RVOS.COM/CO-OP



THE LURE OF LAKE FORK



Whole Lotta Fishin' Goin' On

State's Top Lunker Spot Hooks Big Bass Tournament

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JODY HORTON

For the second year in a row, the Toyota Texas Bass Classic will be held in April at Lake Fork, the state's premier bass-fishing lake. Our report on last year's event is below, along with details of the 2008 event. If this story doesn't whet your appetite for a day on the lake, nothing will!

MORE THAN FISHING AT BASS CLASSIC

The second annual Toyota Texas Bass Classic, following the same format as the 2007 event, will take place April 18–20 on Lake Fork. **Robert Earl Keen** and **Trace Adkins** will headline the musical entertainment. Fellow Texans **Kacey Musgraves** and **Roger Creager** will also perform. In addition, there will be children's activities, a fishing expo and lots of mingling and autograph signing with the pros. The event will again benefit Texas Parks and Wildlife Department youth outreach programs through a \$250,000 donation. This year there will be a cover charge of \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door good for all three days.

6:30 a.m., April 15, 2007

Predawn turns the sky from black to deep purple inching to blue. The final five teams, dressed in bright jackets, weave through officials, photographers and camera crews down to the floating docks where they load into day-glow boats and layer on cold-weather gear and life preservers. Floodlights on the bank catch fog on the water. It hangs eerie and yellow, hardly stirring. The whole scene looks like a movie set. A CBS-TV helicopter clips the air above the docks, cutting an arc over the small harbor.

It is the final day of the first Toyota Texas Bass Classic at Lake Fork outside of Quitman and 30 minutes to start time. One hundred sixty top anglers from all over the country have gathered at this legendary fishery in East Texas. Divided into 40 teams, each led by a designated captain, only the top five teams have advanced after two days of competition. A top team prize of \$250,000—part of a million-dollar purse—hangs in the balance.

Tournament of Firsts

This Toyota Texas competition was a series of firsts. It was the first major bass competition to be held at Lake Fork and the first tournament of its size to waive entry fees for anglers.

It was the first to employ a team format and to introduce a new method for scoring and fish care. It was the first major tournament to be sanctioned by the Professional Anglers Association and the first bass competition, ever, to be nationally televised.

"The event was set up to showcase the lake, but also to change the way competitions are done," said J.C. Fassino, president of the Texas Bass Classic Foundation. "We thought this was a tremendous success."

Part sporting event, part expo, part concert and part carnival, the three-day event attracted more than 26,000 fans, despite a sudden and brutal cold front that arrived on day two.

"To go to a tournament like that with no entry fees is unheard of," said professional angler Terry Scroggins, whose team took first place. "I've always fished against everybody and fished alone. To get to fish with some of your buddies and learn from them year to year is really something. Especially on what is probably the No. 1 trophy lake in the country."

Success of Good Management

To call Lake Fork a top big bass fishery does not do it justice. While its national status is hard to measure, it is by far the

Winning team captain Terry Scroggins and his crew took the top prize of \$250,000 for a total catch of 54 fish weighing 244 pounds, 12 ounces.



CO-OPS TAKE PART

For the second year, **Wood County** and **Farmers** electric cooperatives will co-sponsor the **TPWD Family Fun Zone** at the Bass Classic. The Fun Zone will have interactive displays and entertaining learning events that are also conservation-friendly.

Visitors to the event will also find cooperative employees in the **Touchstone Energy®** tent, which will feature a colorful 10-foot-tall inflatable decorative balloon. On Sunday, one of Touchstone Energy's full-sized hot air balloons will make an appearance. Visitors will be able to get an up-close look and meet pilot Cheri White, a U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Champion.



A sudden cold front brought freezing temperatures and fog to the final day of competition. Here, camera crews prepare for a 7 a.m. start.

dominant fishery in the state. The lake boasts not only the current state record largemouth (a 25 1/2-inch, 18.18-pound monster caught by Barry St. Clair in 1992), it is also the source of the second-, third-, fourth-, fifth- and sixth-place fish. It accounts for 15 of the top 20, and a full 70 percent of the 50 biggest bass ever caught in Texas.

The success of this fishery is a result of 25 years of sound management. The lake, managed by the Inland Fisheries Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Sabine River Authority, has a strict slot limit. This means that any bass between 16 and 24 inches (the "slot") must be immediately returned to the water. In addition, there is a one-per-day limit for fish over 24 inches.

Although these limits have proven successful in creating a vibrant fishery, they have been less successful in attracting fishing competitions. When asked to temporarily suspend these restrictions for the sake of tournaments, TPWD declined. And so, despite its fame among anglers and a national reputation as a premier lake for trophy bass, Lake Fork had never before hosted a major bass tournament.

Minding the Slot: A New Tournament Format

Conceived by co-founders Dan Friedkin and Donato Ramos and developed by TPWD, the Toyota Texas Bass Classic was designed to respect the lake's slot

limits and show that a strict adherence to conservation methods is not at odds with fishing competition.

"We're here to honor the lake and show what solid fisheries management can do," said TPWD Program Director David Terre. "But what this tournament is really about is trying to send a message of conservation. We hope to show the world some progressive fish-care strategies."

To ensure proper care of every fish caught during the competition, a trained official is assigned to each boat. The official's job is to measure and weigh each catch above 14 inches before returning it to the lake. Only the top five from each angler are counted toward the team's score. Contestants may temporarily retain one fish over 24 inches. Because competition rounds are only four hours, time in a livewell is limited. Once on shore these monster fish are placed in the care of TPWD staff, transported in custom tanks and ultimately returned to the lake.

While honoring conservation strategies, the tournament format also was created with the goal of making a fishing competition more compelling—both to television and tournament audiences. To ensure constant action throughout the day, the four-person teams are divided—two fishing a four-hour morning heat and two fishing a four-hour afternoon heat. While not fishing, the anglers mix with the audience, conduct seminars and sign autographs.

Before and after heats, teammates meet in a designated space by the docks for (televised) strategy sessions and travel to the stage in a convoy of Toyota Tundras—sometimes with big catches. Scoring—measured in total weight of fish caught per team—is reported in real time to a giant scoreboard screen next to the stage and to dozens of plasma screens inside sponsor and VIP tents. To create suspense, real-time fishing scores are frozen for part of the final heat.

Lest there be a lapse in excitement, a lineup of country music stars performs throughout the competition and following the afternoon heat. Headliners in 2007 were Clay Walker and Tracy Lawrence. Still more entertainment is provided through dozens of activities. Last year's highlights included archery for kids, a jet ski simulator, a tractor-trailer filled with "over 20 of the largest trophies ever collected" (stuffed deer heads), a video booth where you could make (and star in) a professional-quality commercial for Toyota trucks, and an obstacle course track where you could test drive a Tundra.

"You could never buy publicity like that," said Martin Edwards of the national broadcast of the tournament. As owner of The Minnow Bucket, a 24-year institution and source for all things fishing and fishing related, he has seen a marked rise in out-of-state fishers at Lake Fork since. "We've had people out of Indiana and Kentucky that have mentioned seeing [the broadcast]



Russ Lane, of the Alton Jones team, shows off a lunker caught in the first heat of day three.

Pos.	Team	Captain	(lbs-oz)
#1	40	Scroggins	217-12
#2	4	Jones	202-00
#3	20	Morganthaler	*180-00
#4	38	Walker	176-08
	17	Howell	132-12

Real-time scoring is suspended during the tournament's final heat with the top two teams only 15 pounds apart. Spectators must wait for the final wrap-up to discover the winner.

directly. And a lot of others. And it's going to be bigger and better this year."

2007 Wrap-Up

The winning team, captained by Terry Scroggins, included Chris Daves, Frank Ippoliti and James Niggemeyer, and

took the top prize of \$250,000 for a total catch of 54 fish weighing 244 pounds, 12 ounces.

The tournament's largest single catch, an 11-pound, 2-ounce specimen, earned John Sappington of Willard, Missouri, the Lucchese Toyota Tundra

Big Bass Award and a big dose of Texas—custom Lucchese boots, a Stetson hat and a Lucchese edition Toyota Tundra truck.

Jody Horton is an Austin-based photographer and writer.

LAKE FORK, TEXAS ★ APRIL 18-20, 2008

LIVE MUSIC

Headlining

Trace Adkins

Additional Performances by

**Robert Earl Keen
Roger Creager
Kacey Musgraves**



FOR TICKETS VISIT
www.ToyotaTexasBassClassic.com
CALL 866-907-0143
 or visit participating
BASS PRO SHOPS or BROOKSHIRE'S



Terry "Big Show" Scroggins
Toyota Pro Team

Fishing Expo ★ Family Fun Zone ★ Nationally Televised Event



METAL BUILDINGS BY MUELLER

I WANT MY BUILDING
TO help keep my
truck looking new.

Starting at
\$3,595*



24' x 24' x 10'

*Prices subject to change without notice. Please check local building codes before ordering your Mueller building.



GET YOUR FREE QUOTE ONLINE!

877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)

www.MuellerInc.com

ALL-NEW PROGRAM FOR 2008!

Lost 30 Lbs*! — Cara

"I made the decision to join NutriSystem after seeing pictures of myself last summer. I've generally always stayed fit, but over the past couple of years I let myself go, and the evidence was right in front of my face. I wanted to show my husband of 20 years, also my junior high sweetheart, the woman he had married. When he was deployed to Iraq I decided to make a change, and by the time he returned I was 30 lbs.* lighter! I love the NutriSystem program and would recommend it to anyone!"



BEFORE

"I did it for me, now do it for you!"



AFTER

Lost 50 Lbs*! — Tressa

"My weight seemed to creep up on me throughout my teenage years. It finally hit me when almost everything in my closet didn't fit! After a few depressing months of buying larger sizes, I finally snapped out of it and decided it was time for a change. I just knew that NutriSystem was the best choice for me. I lost 50 lbs.* on the program and it's changed my life dramatically. Shopping is no longer a nightmare. I used to hide behind my body but now I like turning heads. It feels really wonderful to finally be in control of my life!"



BEFORE

"I can finally buy clothes that make me look and feel great."



AFTER

Lost 77 Lbs*! — Mark

AFTER



BEFORE

"Now I can compete in sports again, and know I've set a good example for my family, too."

"I have struggled with weight as long as I can remember. There's not a diet that I haven't tried at some point. I couldn't find any long-term success, and it was really taking a toll on my self-esteem. NutriSystem was the answer I'd been looking for my whole life. I was able to lose 77 lbs. * and gain a whole new outlook on life. I'm now able to enjoy life with my wife and kids like never before."

Lost 23 Lbs*! — Amy



AFTER



BEFORE

"I'm down to a size 2 and I feel like me again."*

"With NutriSystem, everything was just too easy: it was easy to prepare the meals, easy to store them (I traveled and packed them to go), and easy to eat them (they're very tasty). Because of NutriSystem, my life has turned around. I went from size 12 to a size 2,* and I feel like me again! My clothes don't cut into me, and I can move easier. I am able to enjoy life and my new family! I can be the person I knew was under there somewhere."

*Results not typical. Individuals are remunerated. Weight lost on a prior NutriSystem® program.

- ✓ A variety of great-tasting meals and desserts
- ✓ Now with omega-3s to help promote heart health!
- ✓ Includes unique, natural ingredient to help control hunger!
- ✓ Delivered right to your door
- ✓ Meals prepare in just minutes
- ✓ No counting calories, carbs or points
- ✓ FREE membership and counseling, and no center visits
- ✓ All for about \$10 a day†

THEY LOST WEIGHT, YOU CAN, TOO!

EAT FREE FOR THREE WEEKS!

That's 21 BREAKFASTS, 21 LUNCHES, 21 DINNERS & 21 DESSERTS ABSOLUTELY FREE!†

Please use promo code **TEX208** to get this Free offer.

Call Toll-Free 1-877-257-BODY
or visit nutrisystem.com/3months to get started today

On NutriSystem, you add-in fresh fruit, vegetables, salads and dairy items.



**Eat great,
feel full,
AND lose weight!**

THREE FREE WEEKS!†

Select Our New Advanced 28-Day Auto-Delivery Program And You Can Get An Additional THREE FREE WEEKS OF FOOD!†

†Offer good on new Auto-Delivery order only. Limit one per customer. With Auto-Delivery, you automatically receive your 28-Day program once every 4 weeks unless you cancel. You can cancel Auto-Delivery at any time, however for this offer you must stay on Auto-Delivery for at least three consecutive 28-Day program deliveries to receive the second and third free weeks. One additional free week of food will be included with your first, second and third deliveries. Cannot be combined with any prior or current discount or offer. ©2008 NutriSystem, Inc. All rights reserved.

nutrisystem

Play Up Outdoor Electrical Safety to Children



Warm, sunny days beckon the child in all of us to head outside and play. Your electric co-op recommends that families review and stress to children to follow simple electrical safety rules for safe outdoor play.

Help keep your kids out of harm's way when they play outdoors. Children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. Make them aware of overhead power lines and electrical equipment, and emphasize that they should never climb or play near them.

We recommend children be taught to follow these rules:

- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to a branch.
- Fly kites and model airplanes in large open areas such as a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Contact your electric cooperative for assistance.
- Never climb a utility pole or tower.
- Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment.
- Never go into an electric substation for any reason. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment that can be deadly. Never try to rescue

a pet or retrieve a toy that goes inside. Call your co-op instead.

When designing an outdoor play area for your children, do not install playground equipment or swimming pools underneath or near power lines. Protect all family members from serious shock and injuries by installing and using outdoor outlets with ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Use portable GFCIs for outdoor outlets that don't have them. Be careful when using electrical appliances outdoors, even if plugged into GFCI-equipped outlets.

Water always attracts kids, but water and electricity never mix. Teach older children to exercise caution before plugging in a radio, CD player or any electrical gadget outdoors, and keep all electrical appliances at least 10 feet away from hot tubs, pools, ponds, puddles and wet surfaces.

Spring showers bring more than tempting puddles for kids to splash in, they can also leave behind electric hazards. Flooded areas are never safe spots to wade or play in, and may be in contact with energized electrical equipment or fallen power lines.

Make sure all of your family members know to stay away from downed power lines and wires, and tell children to report to an adult any fallen or dangling wires.



WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY THIS SPRING

Warmer weather has finally arrived, so here are some things you can do now to improve your home's energy efficiency in the months ahead:

WINDOW AIR CONDITIONER. Seal around the unit so cool air cannot escape.

CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONER. Hose off the outdoor condensing unit to remove dirt and leaves. Get professional service for your central air every two years. Choose a qualified contractor.

FILTER. If it's dirty, replace or clean it before running the air conditioner. Check it every month or more often, if needed.

LAWN MOWER. Replace your gas-powered lawn mower with a non-polluting manual or electric mower.

AIR-DRY LAUNDRY. Put up a clothesline for hanging laundry outside to dry, rather than using your clothes dryer, which heats up the house.

SHADE. Reduce your air conditioner's energy use by planting deciduous shade trees to the south or west of your home.

FANS. On mild days, use fans to keep you cool. Ceiling fans are ideal, but portable fans can inexpensively do the job.

Going on a 'Duct' Hunt

If your home has a central heating or cooling system, it probably relies on ductwork to carry conditioned air to each room. If this ductwork is not properly sealed, up to 30 percent of the energy you purchase to operate your heating or cooling system could be wasted through duct leaks. Sealing the ducts will reduce this loss.

The best way to measure the airtightness of your home's duct system is by performing a duct-blower test. A duct blower is a portable fan that is used to pressurize the ductwork in your home. It is calibrated to determine the size and location of air leaks, giving guidance to air-sealing technicians on where to concentrate their duct-sealing efforts. A duct-blower test and subsequent air sealing can be performed by either a building performance contractor or by a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) contractor.

Why should duct testing and sealing be a part of your home improvements? Think of your home's ductwork as part of the building shell, working in conjunction with ceilings, walls and floors to keep heat outdoors in summer and indoors in winter. You have probably noticed that even small leaks around your doors and windows cause uncomfortable drafts, perhaps forcing you to



adjust your thermostat to keep your home comfortable. Yet these door and window leaks allow only room-temperature air to escape. Your home's ductwork, on the other hand, carries air that is heated or cooled beyond room temperature. Duct leaks are also pressurized by the system's fan, increasing the rate at which air is lost through even small gaps. This rapid loss of energy-laden air makes duct leaks more costly than similarly sized leaks in ceilings, walls and floors.

To learn more about how duct sealing can improve the comfort and efficiency of your home, visit www.energystar.gov/ducts.

LIGHTEN UP YOUR ROOF TO LIGHTEN UP YOUR ELECTRIC BILL



Roofs are perhaps the most important component of an energy-efficient building. Unfortunately, compared to doors, windows and lighting, roofs are generally much less durable and much less energy efficient.

Over the lifetime of a building, a roof needs to be replaced an average of four times. More than 75 percent of the roofing work in the United States involves reroofing.

Energy-efficient roof technologies are fairly straightforward. Manufacturers have developed lighter-colored shingles and tiles, usually containing a coating of titanium dioxide, that absorb less heat than a typical asphalt shingle and can last twice as long. Since lighter surfaces are easily discolored by fungus, a fungicide coating normally gets added. Many of the new roof coatings are even self-cleaning to retain reflectivity properties and reduce air-conditioning requirements.

Lighter-colored roofs are slightly more expensive. However, the small cost difference will easily pay for itself in one summer.

Roof overhangs are another way to trim summer cooling bills. For many homes and businesses in warmer climates, overhangs reduce solar heat gain and interior temperatures. They can also be designed to let direct sunlight into a living space during winter but keep things shaded in summer.

DOES THAT THIRD PRONG REALLY MATTER?

Yes, it does! The third prong provides a path to ground along which the electric current travels. Most major appliances, such as stoves, refrigerators and computers, have three-prong plugs, meaning they are grounded. Many older homes do not have three-hole receptacles. If your home does not, you should have an electrician rewire the home to accommodate the three-prong plugs. Although three-prong adapters can be purchased, they are not recommended for permanent use. And, remember never to clip the third prong off a plug to make it fit a two-hole outlet.



A Permanent Memory



Hot beans and home perms don't mix.

BY CELIA YEARY

When I was young, our family was poor, but I suppose I always thought we were rich. If not rich, then certainly my two sisters and I were beautiful. Daddy always said so, until our hair grew a little long and reverted to its natural state of straight-as-a-board. However, I do need to edit that last statement. My little sister had naturally curly hair, so she never suffered through a Toni home permanent.

"Honeybunch," Daddy would say to Mother, "you need to cut and curl these girls' hair, so they'll be real pretty."

Mother was in her glory when she cut and curled someone's hair. Since she had only two of us at home who needed to be "fixed up," she recruited other young ladies to be her subjects for free. All they had to do was buy the permanent ingredients. This was a generous act on my mother's part, but I did not realize that until I became older.

I remember the caustic, overwhelmingly odoriferous liquids involved in the home permanents, which always took place in the kitchen on a Saturday. There also would be the wonderful aroma of pinto beans and ham bubbling and simmering in a pressure cooker.

The pressure cooker scared me to death. A gauge sitting on top displayed the rising pressure numbers, and the gauge would jiggle back and forth as the pressure built, rattling faster and faster to match the intense boiling of the beans. Alongside the gauge was a little rubber stopper, which served as a safety valve in case too much pressure built up.

Mother would say, "Now, you girls help me watch that gauge. We don't want that lid to blow off." I watched, but from a vantage point well across the room and near a door, in case I needed to escape.

One Saturday, my older sister's friend arrived to have a home permanent. First, Mother began cooking the beans slowly without the lid on the pressure cooker. Then Mother brought out her arsenal of curling rods, the little squares of paper, cotton balls, towels, metal clips that often caught the scalp with the sectioned-off hair, and a rattail comb.

The girl washed her hair in preparation for the rolling process. Then she sat at the table, wrapped a towel around her shoulders and combed her wet hair straight back. While she was doing this, Mother put the lid on the pressure cooker—but



failed to turn it that last fraction to lock it. She turned up the burner but forgot to remind any of us to help watch the gauge.

Mother rolled the hair in her speedy, practiced way. She poured part of the developer, the one that smelled like rotten eggs, into a small bowl and began dabbing the solution on the girl's hair. All the while, Mother, the visitor and my sister chatted, laughed and completely forgot about the pressure cooker.

I was playing dolls with my little sister in the front room when I heard a mighty hiss, a scary rumbling, then a loud boom! Terrified, I peeked around the corner. Hot beans, juice and bits of ham plastered the kitchen and everyone in the room. Mixed in with the curling rods and developer on the poor girl's head was our supper.

There were a few mild burns, but no one was seriously hurt. For the remainder of the day, we cleaned away beans, juice and ham. However, the girl's hair stayed rolled and soaked with the developing solution. Hours later, when someone remembered, Mom applied the neutralizer, but it was too late. Her hair was ruined—frizzed and burned like yellow steel wool.

Did this adventure deter my mother from curling hair, or using her beloved pressure cooker? No, it did not. It only gave her a story to tell and laugh about every time a visitor or one of us had a Toni or a Lilt home permanent.

People in our South Plains town remember my mother for the exploding beans episode. Others remember the times she made soup for the sick, visited the lonely, and combed and curled the hair of an elderly shut-in.

I was always very proud of her. She was beautiful, in my eyes, with her thick, black hair—always curled—dark eyes, red lips and joyous laugh. She never received a medal, award or crown, so, what made her so special, a hero to me? She never lagged in her motherly love and responsibility to keep us in pretty, hand-made dresses, polished white high-topped shoes, and with curled and combed hair. She pinched pennies so we could always be “turned out,” as people said. “Look at those Davis girls. They always look like a new dime, all dressed up, pretty as a picture and clean as a whistle.” What child could ask for more?

Celia Yeary, a retired schoolteacher, is a member of Pedernales Electric Cooperative. She recently sold a historical romance novel to The Wild Rose Press.

CLEAR LAKE

Having a Blast at NASA

*The dusty displays
of yesteryear have
been jettisoned, and
a slick, new tour
awaits visitors to
the space agency's
Houston-area HQ.*

By Karen Hastings



So what would your average second-grader—who couldn't tell Neil Armstrong from a Saturn V rocket—like best about Space Center Houston, the education and entertainment complex next door to the world-famous Johnson Space Center?

Judging from the thundering sneakers and delighted squeals, it's the spiral chutes and ladders of a whopper five-level indoor space gym—the Martian Matrix—complete with a ball rocket launcher and its own kid-friendly communications system.

On a recent chilly school day, a busload of delighted Houston youngsters were whooping and hollering. Retired Winter Texans were quietly photographing the world's largest display of moon rocks. And tourists speaking Norwegian and French were watching real space engineers perform microgravity simulations in an actual astronaut training facility.

At Space Center Houston, participation takes precedence over static displays of dusty artifacts, says Roger Bornstein, the center's director of marketing. "We provide experiences that people do," Bornstein said. "And people want that experience. They don't want to be looking through glass."

Set near Clear Lake amid the pines off Interstate 45 on NASA Parkway, Space Center Houston offers plenty of history and historic artifacts, to be sure. "But when you walk in here, you hear kids laughing, people talking. It's a place that's very much alive. Through that activity, we're able to educate people, adults and children, about the U.S. space program," said Bornstein.

So bring the whole family and plan to stay awhile: A visit takes 4 to 6 hours, depending on the age and attention span of your group.

Everything starts in Space Center Plaza, where revolving science exhibits with the NASA touch change throughout the year. Just off the main plaza is Starship Gallery, a good place to start your visit in earnest. Narrated by astronauts, "On Human Destiny" is a short film history taking you from Mercury and Gemini to Apollo, the space shuttle and the International Space Station. You'll hear snippets of President Kennedy's famous moon speech at Rice University, while film clips and music convey the excitement, pride and (sometimes) tragedy of manned spaceflight.

Afterward, doors open to Space Center Houston's artifact gallery and exhibits, where visitors can see Apollo mission moon rocks, the impossibly tiny Mercury Faith 7 capsule piloted by Gordon Cooper in 1963, and the Apollo 17 Command Module, which made America's last lunar voyage in 1972.

Items here range from the serious—a Lunar Roving Vehicle used for moon mission training—to the lighthearted—a toy dinosaur taken into space in honor of the "Raptor Team" trainers who loved testing shuttle astronauts with "dramatic and devastating" mission simulations.

Younger children might most enjoy the "Living in Space" program, which answers

those perennial questions about how astronauts sleep, eat and you-know-what in zero gravity.

Elsewhere in “The Feel of Space” area, popular computer simulators let visitors try their hand at landing and docking a space shuttle.

Children and adults alike will also like the rumbling “blast off” feature of Blast Off Theater, with its live presentation on the future of spaceflight. You might even get to eavesdrop on a live space shuttle mission or see live feeds from the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory, where astronauts train underwater.

But for serious space buffs, a visit to Space Center Houston has to include the tram tour of Johnson Space Center, “the home of manned spaceflight,” where men and women of the U.S. space program work and train. Here on this 1,600-acre scientific campus, flight controllers monitor space shuttle missions, astronauts prepare for life on the International Space Station, and that unassuming engineer waiting to cross the street could be contemplating upcoming missions to Mars.

Stop No. 1 is usually Building 30N, which houses the historic Mission Control Center, a National Historic Landmark and the actual room from which space engineers and scientists coordinated Apollo 11 and man’s first moon landing. Docents tell the story of that “one small step ... one giant leap,” while monitors provide a sneak peek into the modern Mission Control Center, where scientists and engineers are on continuous duty overseeing American visits to the International Space Station.

A final tram stop is usually Rocket Park, home to the largest rocket ever built by NASA, and one of the only remaining Saturn V rockets in existence. This recently restored, 363-foot behemoth was originally built for a canceled Apollo mission, which explains why it is lying in a climate-controlled shed in Houston rather than floating in space in huge, discarded chunks. By the time the docent has explained the function of each rocket section, down to the final, relatively tiny tip that held the crew, even kids can appreciate the incredible effort and power it takes to propel humans to the moon.

“What we try to do is make sure everybody leaves here with some degree of knowledge about the space program,” Bornstein said. “We want everybody to have some appreciation for the work of NASA in extraterritorial exploration. It’s one of the most important things our country does.”

For more information about Space Center Houston, visit www.spacecenter.org or call (281) 244-2100.

Karen Hastings, who wrote about quinceañeras in the June 2007 Texas Co-op Power, has relocated from South Texas to Katy, near Houston.



Kids will find many diversions, including the interactive Martian Matrix playscape.

Smart Owners Protect Their Birds

What You Need to Know

USDA is working to keep "bird flu" (avian influenza – AI) and exotic Newcastle disease (END) out of the country. They are contagious viral diseases that can infect many types of birds.



LOOK FOR SIGNS OF ILLNESS

Watch for signs of disease or unexpected deaths among your birds.



REPORT SICK BIRDS

Call your local cooperative extension office, veterinarian, State Veterinarian or USDA Veterinary Services toll free at 1-866-536-7593.



PROTECT YOUR BIRDS

Take a few simple steps: Disinfect shoes, clothes, and equipment. Wash your hands carefully. Keep other birds and people away from your birds.



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



You can find out more about how to protect your birds by visiting:
<http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov>

Free How-to Guide on Biosecurity
To order, e-mail birdbiosecurity@aphis.usda.gov

Marathon Water Heaters

**Save Money
Save Energy
Save the Planet**



- Incredible energy efficiency saves you money.
- Highly efficient manufacturing process uses recycling.
- Insulated with Envirofoam Insulation®, a CFC- and HCFC-free product that helps protect the planet.

For buying information, call
1-866-390-4832

 **Texas Electric Cooperatives**
Utility Supply & Service Division

EARTH IMAGE: [HTTP://VISIBLEEARTH.NASA.GOV/](http://visibleearth.nasa.gov/)



KRUDKUTTER.COM
(800) 466-7126

© 2008 Krud Kutter

**TOUGH CLEAN,
EARTH FRIENDLY**

Six Decades of Texas' Favorite Foods, Fads & Facts

Full Color, Hardbound,
More Than 600 Recipes
From 60 Years of Texas Co-op Power



Order Now!

Please send me _____ cookbooks at \$29.95 each, for a total of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Make checks payable to Texas Electric Cooperatives. Send \$29.95 (\$24.95 plus \$5 tax, shipping and handling) for each cookbook to Cookbook, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704. Also available in co-op lobbies throughout the state or online at www.texascooppower.com. Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

LONESTAR MARKET

TOWN & COUNTRY



M&W BUILDERS

CUSTOM BUILT POLE BUILDINGS

BARN • SHOPS • GARAGES

ALL SIZES AVAILABLE
FOR FREE ESTIMATES CALL

1-800-457-2088

2 SEAT BIKE

DRIVES LIKE A CAR

- Easy to Pedal
- Multi-Speed
- 1, 2 & 4 Seaters
- Optional Electric Motor



FREE BROCHURE

1-800-974-6233 Ext. 8386 • www.4wc.com/8386

RHOADES CAR Dept. 8386 • 125 Rhoades Lane
Hendersonville, Tennessee 37075

NEED LAND CLEARED?

Underbrush and up to 16" dia. trees reduced to mulch. Leaves no unsightly piles, and mulch helps lessen erosion.



Roads-Ponds-Culverts-Site Work-Dozers-Backhoes
Visit our website for more info, or call for a Free Quote!

979-830-5440 www.dirtworksoftexas.com

OCEAN FREIGHT CONTAINER SALES

SECURE STORAGE

Water-Tight/Rodent Proof

LARRY SINGLEY

CALL 1-866-992-9122
(817) 992-9122



W.D. Metal Buildings



Instant Quotes Online www.wdmb.com

Failing Septic?

Don't Let'em Dig!!!

Permanent Fix For Your Old Tied Septic
Environmentally Friendly! No chemicals!

90 Day Money Back Guarantee!

www.ProInnewastewater.com (512) 864-9002

MID - AMERICA POLE BARN COMPANY

30X50X10 SPECIAL

Galvalume. Material, Delivery, and const.
Factory trusses and screws.

TOLL FREE 1-866-456-0959

BRUSH SHARK

Skid Steer mounted shear.

1/2" to 6" diameter trees and brush.

Perfect for cedar, shin oak, persimmon,
mesquite.



512-263-6830 • www.brushshark.com

USED CONTAINERS



Equipment
Storage
Service

1-866-377-2289

Selling for Less at ESS for over 20 years!

AMERISTALL



* MAINTENANCE FREE GALVINIZED STEEL FRAMING

* 26 GAUGE 40 YEAR WARRANTY ROOF, WALL, & TRIM

* HORSE BARN KITS, STALLS, & STALL COMPONENTS

888.234.BARN(2276)

www.ameristall.com

WATER PROBLEMS ??

NO MORE
IRON!

NO MORE
SULFUR!

NO MORE
HARDNESS!

NO MORE
BACTERIA!

PROBLEMS SOLVED WITH
♦ **NO SALT & NO CHEMICALS**

FREE BROCHURE~1-800-392-8882

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!
www.waterproblems.net



140 MPH wind rating! Bolt-together red iron,
optional steel roof and horizontal lap siding.

Resists mold, termites and fire.

kodiaksteelhomes.com

800-278-0888

HIGH RATES on Bank CDs TEXAS TOLL-FREE 1-800-359-4940

BLAKE MATTSON, CFP™

Signal Securities, Inc.

5400 Bosque, 4th Floor, Waco, TX 76710

"Serving Customers All Over Texas"

All CDs are insured to \$100,000 per institution by the FDIC. All CDs are subject to availability. Securities offered through Signal Securities, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC. 700 Throckmorton, Ft. Worth, TX 76102 (817) 877-4256.



40 x 50 x 10 = \$8,437.00

40 x 60 x 12 = \$9,362.00

50 x 100 x 12 = \$16,832.00

60 x 80 x 14 = \$16,956.00

100 x 150 x 14 (M-1) = \$45,824.00

ALL SIZES MINI-STORAGE!

1-800-509-4949

www.accessiblebuildings.com

ADVANTAGE STEEL BUILDINGS



Quality Buildings at Affordable Prices

30' x 50' x 10' \$6,290

40' x 60' x 12' \$8,975

50' x 75' x 14' \$13,547

80' x 120' x 16 (M-1)..... \$32,133

Minis - 30' x 100' with 20 10' x 15' units - \$10,529

1.877.657.8335

www.advantagesteelbuildings.com

WANTED: Demo Homesites For 2008 Season

Display The KAYAK Maintenance Free Pool And \$AVE \$\$!
Call to Qualify for this Limited Time Opportunity
We consider anything on Trade!

100%
Financing
Available



Vacation at Home in 2008!

www.swimtexas.com

1-800-SWIMTEXAS
(1-800-794-6839)

A family owned and operated Texas Company since 1986.

Visit us
on the
Web!

home recipe



homemade



United-Bilt Homes builds every home from scratch using the finest materials and craftsmanship. And with our easy financing, you're practically home free:

Zero down • 100% financing • No payments for 6 months!

Combine your land, our home plans, top-quality construction and affordable financing for the perfect recipe for your new custom-built home.

Tour our model homes! Houston, Dallas,
Austin, Tyler, Sherman, Beaumont and Texarkana.

w.a.c.

ubh.com  **1.800.756.2506**



**United-Bilt
Homes**

Homemade just for you®

CJ'S BARN BUILDERS

SPECIAL: 30 x 50 x 10

INCLUDES ALL MATERIAL, CONSTRUCTION, DELIVERY
Galvalume metal put on with screws • One pre-hung door
One 10' or 12' sliding door • 6 skylights, factory trusses
One-year warranty on labor and materials
Colors and other sizes available • Call us for a brochure

1-877-710-7297 8:00 to 5:00 Mon.-Fri.

MANUFACTURED HOME OR PIER & BEAM HOME INSULATED CEMENT SKIRTING

3 designs & 11 colors to choose from!

Replace your vinyl skirting with STONECOTE.

1-888-724-1504

www.stonecote.com



THOMPSON BARN

"We Do It Right - We Do It All"

Full Construction to Clean Up

Heavy Duty 'Beam' Construction

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

TEXAS PROUD • 800-583-8632

LOWEST COST Term Life Insurance

Issue ages through 90

AGE	\$100,000	\$250,000
45	12.78	22.75
55	16.19	31.28
65	31.06	68.47

Rates figured on monthly cost for female non-tobacco users.

RAMLET & ASSOC, INC.

(800) 933-6354

TALIC FORM NO. 1-32207-198



**HERITAGE
BUILDING SYSTEMS®**
Established 1979

A Legacy Built To Last

30' x 40' x 10' \$5,975

40' x 60' x 12' \$10,294

60' x 100' x 16' \$25,886

Since 1979 Heritage Building Systems' focus has been to provide the industry with the finest quality, best looking pre-engineered steel structures at the lowest possible price.



1.800.643.5555
www.heritagebuildings.com

America's Oldest & Largest Rare Breed Hatchery.
Free Color Catalog. Over 140 varieties of Baby Chicks,
 Bantams, Turkeys, Guineas, Peafowl, Game Birds, Waterfowl.
 Also Eggs, Incubators, Books, Equipment and Medications.
 Call **1-800-456-3280** (24 Hours A Day)
Murray McMurray Hatchery
 C 122, Webster City, Iowa 50595-0458
 Website: <http://www.mcmurrayhatchery.com>



Stilwell Construction

BARNs, SHOPS, GARAGES, SHEDS, STALLS, ETC.

1-866-211-8902
www.stilwell-const.com

American Metal Components

Pre-Fabricated All-Steel Building Kits

"Many Options and Financing Available"

Portables-Shops-Garages-Barns-Offices-Warehouses

24x25x8=\$3,995.00 | 30x30x12=\$5,595.00 | 26-gauge galvalume
 24x30x10=\$5,195.00 | 40x60x10=\$10,995.00 | roof and walls with
 25-year warranty.

1-866-424-2534 www.amcbldg.com



FUTURE STEEL BUILDINGS

Do-It-Yourself Steel Buildings



Ideal For:

- Recreational Use
- Boat Storage
- Bunkie
- Equipment Storage
- Garage/Shop
- PWC/Snowmobile

- 30-year perforation warranty
- Full technical support from start to finish
- Fully customized to meet your needs
- Factory-direct savings

Call Toll Free
 Today for a
FREE!
 INFORMATION PACKAGE

Our building consultants are ready to take your call

1-800-668-5111 Ask
 for ext. 91

NATIONAL BARN COMPANY "Building Solutions" ...with integrity!
 MEMBER NABBA ACCREDITED



Full Service Post-Frame Design & Construction Since 1992
 Serving 27 States and Over 10,000 Customers

1-800-582-BARN(2276)

- No Money Down • Licensed, Bonded & Fully Insured
- All Major Credit Cards Accepted

FAX: 1-866-582-1400
 E-mail: sales@nationalbarn.com

nationalbarn.com

MAN SAVER POST DRIVER™

www.rohrermfg.com

Drive most any wood or metal post on the market (up to 3.5" diameter).

Starting at \$450

Safe & Easy One Person Operation

Heavy Duty Construction

Runs Off Any Small Air Compressor

ROHRER MANUFACTURING INC.
1.800.980.7599

FOSTER'S Farm & Equipment Supply

Featherlite's #1 Dealer in Texas!

"The Last Livestock Trailer You Will Ever Need!"

(Building The Best Since 1973)

Goosenecks as low as \$13,900
 Payments as low as \$182 per month, 0 Down WAC
 Sizes Available: 16', 20', 24', 30'

Bumper Pulls as low as \$8,755
 Payments as low as \$115 per month, 0 Down WAC
 Sizes Available: 12', 16'

www.trailers4lessonline.com

Hockley, TX (281) 256-6900
 33402 Hwy 290 West

Liberty, TX (936) 336-7226
 2210 Hwy 90 East

Beaumont, TX (409) 842-1128
 9135 College Street

FEATHERLITE TRAILERS

Safe. Secure. Smart.

(Prices based on \$0 down, 120 months @ 9.9% financing with approved credit)

The Largest Tractor Package Dealer in the USA!™



JOHN DEERE



\$0 DOWN ON ALL NEW 5003's!

- 5103 45HP Pkg \$21,998 or \$357/mo
- 5203 56HP Pkg \$23,498 or \$381/mo
- 5303 64HP Pkg \$24,998 or \$406/mo
- 5403 74HP Pkg \$27,498 or \$446/mo

All New 5003 Series with 4WD only \$119 more a month!



CERTIFIED GOLD STAR DEALER

FOSTERS Farm & Equipment Supply
Hockley, TX
Toll Free (888) 869-6202
www.tractorpackages.com
WE DELIVER NATIONWIDE!

5003 SERIES PACKAGES INCLUDE:

1. 45HP - 74HP 2WD Tractor
2. 512 Front End Loader
3. 6' Rotary Cutter
4. 6' Box Blade
5. Post Hole Digger
6. HD Insulated Canopy Top
7. 20' HD Tandem Trailer with Ramps & Brakes

FOSTERS EASTEX FARM & HOME
SALES - PARTS - SERVICE
BEAUMONT 409-845-1125 LIBERTY 708-234-1700
Liberty 888-502-1888
Beaumont 877-301-0111

Offer ends 4/30/2008. See dealer for complete details. Option for 4WD is \$119 more per month for each package. Example: 5103 2WD package is \$267 per month or \$475 per month for 4WD package. Taxes, freight, set up and delivery charges could increase the monthly payment. Price, payment and financing subject to change without notice. Offer ends 4/30/08. Subject to approved credit on John Deere Credit Installment Plan. Example based on a purchase of \$21,998 with \$0 down payment, monthly payment of \$357 at 4.9% APR for 72 months. Taxes, freight, set up and delivery charges could increase the monthly payment. Price and model availability vary by dealer. Price, payment and financing subject to change without notice. John Deere's green and yellow color scheme, the leaping deer symbol, and JOHN DEERE are trademarks of Deere & Company.

A74CUBD0802-AG-HOU5x50401TCP-4c-00223258

www.JohnDeere.com

STEEL BUILDING SPECIALS



25 YEAR COLOR WARRANTY

PRICES INCLUDE COLOR SIDES & GALVALUME ROOF

30' x 50' x 10'	\$8,600
40' x 60' x 12'	\$11,500
60' x 100' x 16'	\$26,975
80' x 100' x 16'	\$34,790
100' x 150' x 16'	\$59,995



Based In Texas

Prices F.O.B. Mfg. Plants; Sealed Stamped Blue Prints. Local Codes May Affect Prices

Arena Special (roof & frame)
100' x 100' x 14'...\$31,999

FREE BROCHURE • CONSTRUCTION VIDEO

VISIT
OUR
WEBSITE

RHINO®

STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS

Fax: 940-484-6746 email: info@rhinobldg.com
Website: www.RHINOBLDG.COM

Toll Free **1-888-320-7466**

VISIT
OUR
WEBSITE

Get the Muck OUT!



Marble size Aquaclear™ Pellets clear lake or pond bottom.

Scientifically blended concentrate of microorganisms. Digest and breakdown bottom organic muck. Dead decaying vegetation disappears. Produces firmer bottom, fewer nutrients, better water quality. Easy to use. Simply broadcast pellets uniformly over surface. A **9lb. can** treats 0.50 to 1.00 acres—\$54.50. A **45lb. carton** treats 2.50 to 5.00 acres—\$209.00. Apply weekly for 1 month, then monthly to maintain. No water use restrictions!

to order

CALL TOLL FREE 800-328-9350

Call 651-429-6742 • Fax 651-429-0563

Or write for FREE information to:

AQUACIDE CO.

1627 - 9th Street, DEPT. 45BX, Box 10748,
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-0748



www.KillLakeWeeds.com

OUR 53rd YEAR!



"Proudly serving rural America"

Log on for 24 hour information

www.usabarn.com

"SPECIAL"
30x50x10
Galvalume

Call for "Special's Price" in your area!



Built to fit your needs. Any size or design. Call and speak with one of our knowledgeable associates today!



We accept:



Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5 • Sat 8-12 Central

1-877-872-2276 Fax: 918-686-5512

1-877-USA-BARN

Still doing old math?



For years, the lawn consumed over
75% of the average home's water usage...
now it doesn't have to.

www.TURFFALO.com



Does your lawn guzzle water? The newest
turfgrass technology delivers the perfect
lawn - beautiful and water conserving.

Half the water & half the mowing; in full
sun to 80% shade, Turffalo has a solution.

Turffalo brand grass is beautiful, soft, golf
course quality and extremely durable. The
ultimate sustainable landscape.

Insist on Turffalo brand from your builder
or landscaper, or have your lawn shipped
directly to you - anywhere in the US!

Plugs cover completely and are easy
to plant. Available at fine nurseries or
shipped direct -

Order from
Turffalo.com
or
800-872-0522



MOBILE HOME ROOF PROBLEMS?

PERMA-ROOF®
from Southern Builders

The Mobile Home Roofover
Specialist Can Help!



LIFETIME WARRANTY
ONE FOOT OVER-HANG
NO MORE ROOF RUMBLE
COMMERCIAL GRADE STEEL
2"or 3" FOIL BACKED INSULATION

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!

www.roofover.com

1-800-633-8969

THERE ARE MANY REASONS
TO OWN LAND.

7.5 BILLION,
TO BE EXACT.

★ LONE STAR
Ag Credit

800.530.1252
www.LoneStarAgCredit.com



Enjoy this...

BIG POOL

100%
Financing!
*w.o.c.

FREE
Installation!
*w.o.c.

The
Mariner
31'x19' o.d.
Family Size Pool

Pre-Season Special
\$1,180

Includes:
Sundeck,
Fence & Filter
Installation Extra

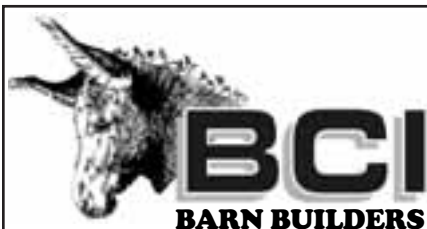
Olympic Pool

Free Backyard Survey!

Homeowners!
Call Us Now!

1-888-697-6654





Price includes material delivery, construction, 1 pre-hung door, 1 sliding door, factory trusses that meet the new 90+ mph wind load requirement, 6 skylights and warranty on labor and materials.

Ask for our brochure. Prices may be higher south of College Station & west of Abilene.

30x50x10
GALVANIZED ENCLOSED

\$7,950⁰⁰

40x60x12
WITH 15X60 SHED
GALVANIZED

\$13,795⁰⁰



COLOR
AND OTHER SIZES
AVAILABLE



8:00 to 5:00 Mon. to Fri.
8:00 to 12:00 Sat. CST



1-800-766-5793

www.bcibarns.com

e-mail: barn@azalea.net

FINALLY,
A SUPER GLUE
TOUGH ENOUGH
TO BE CALLED
GORILLA

NEW



© 2008 Gorilla Glue Company SG6HD1

FOR THE TOUGHEST JOBS ON PLANET EARTH.™

1-800-966-3458 • WWW.GORILLATOUGH.COM

M Metal Mart

THE RIGHT MATERIALS FOR THE RIGHT PRICE!

STEEL BUILDING PACKAGES

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • FARM & RANCH

NEW! CUSTOM SIZES WITH
SHORT LEAD TIME!



SINGLE BAY BUILDING PACKAGES

24'x24'x9' \$4,495

24'x30'x10' \$4,595

30'x30'x12' \$5,995

40'x30'x12' \$6,395

IBC 10-10-100 MPH

OFFER ENDS APRIL 30, 2008



24 TEXAS LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU!

Abilene (Clyde) • 800-677-2502
Athens • 800-323-0231
Austin (Buda) • 800-677-2501
Amarillo • 800-677-2519
Beaumont (Vidor) • 800-677-2513
Belton • 866-451-5144
Boerne • 866-883-4742
Bryan • 800-677-2508
Burnet • 800-301-8158
Conroe • 800-677-2615
Corpus Christi (Mathis) • 800-677-0632
Ft. Worth (Weatherford) • 800-677-2504

Gainesville • 800-677-2514
Greenville (Caddo Mills) • 866-284-5790
Longview • 866-328-1357
Lubbock • 800-677-2710
Lufkin • 800-677-2517
Paris (Reno) • 800-677-2925
San Antonio (Schertz) • 800-677-2516
Texarkana • 866-428-0646
Victoria • 800-677-2428
Waco (Bellmead) • 888-524-0335
Waxahachie • 800-677-2503
Wichita Falls • 800-677-2598

©BLUESKY2007

FLOATING FISHING PIER

On your pond or lake, with or without roof.
All sizes—installation available.
45 YEARS' EXPERIENCE
Call for Free Information • 1-800-310-1425
www.ellisonmarine.com • Ellison Marine, Franklin, TX.

CIRCLE T BARN BUILDERS

QUALITY POST FRAME BUILDINGS
DELIVERED AND ERECTED ON YOUR PROPERTY
• CALL 1-888-837-0638 •
25 YRS. EXPERIENCE

NORTH AMERICAN BARN

• Horse Barns • Garages • Storage Buildings •
• Hay Barns • RV Storage •

• Fully Insured • Price Includes Material,
• Codes May Affect Delivery & Construction
Pricing • Custom Sizes Available



Call Today for the Best Price
888-589-7878
www.northamericanbarn.com

PREMIER BUILDING SYSTEMS



INSTANT QUOTES ONLINE • www.premierbuildings.com



ALL TRAILER PACKAGES INCLUDE:

Tractor, Loader, PH Digger, Box Blade,
Rake, Cutter & 18' Trailer

TRACTOR SIZE/FEL LIFT	PRICE
20 HP / 1275#	\$12,850
25 HP / 1275#	\$13,600
25 HP-SS / 1275#	\$14,700
30 HP-SS / 1275#	\$15,700
35 HP / 1500#	\$15,900
45 HP / 2000#	\$19,300

Triple D Equipment, Inc

www.tripleddd.com
877-864-9558 toll-free call
Half-Price Delivery

Style & Quality

FROM BASIC TO BOLD



#3293/#33-2065

Whether garages, hobby shops,
horse barns or all-purpose
buildings, Morton Buildings can
easily construct a facility that is
functional and accommodates
your needs, basic to bold, plain
to fancy, small to large.

High quality design, materials
and over 50 years of building
experience, allows you to rest
assured you are making an
investment that is built to last.

For Office Locations & Brochures:

800-447-7436

ask for ext. 537

mortonbuildings.com



© 2008 Morton Buildings, Inc.
#13VH02297000 / #WV 007848 / #CB C036362



#3324/#54-0107

Built for the way you work.

You depend on buildings to protect your livelihood. So depend on the proven performance of the industry's #1 metal building brand. A Butler® building system offers fast construction, low maintenance, and superior protection—all at an affordable price that assures unmatched value.

For more great reasons to build with
Butler, call 1-866-792-8853 today.



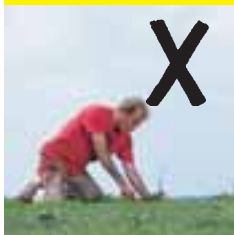
A BlueScope Steel Company

BUILDING IN A NEW LIGHT™

©2008 Butler Manufacturing Company—A BlueScope Steel Company. All rights reserved.



Watering chores, water bills! Sweating behind a roaring mower!
Spraying poison chemicals and digging weeds...



...you can end such lawn drudgery—here's how!



Amazoy is the Trade Mark registered U.S. Patent Office for our Meyer Zoysia Grass.

Mow your zoysia lawn once a month—or less! It rewards you with weed-free beauty all summer long.

7 Ways Your Zoysia Grass Lawn Saves You Time, Work, and Money!

1 CUTS WATER BILLS AND MOWING AS MUCH AS 2/3

Would you believe a lawn could be perfect when watered just once? In Iowa, the state's biggest Men's Garden club picked a zoysia lawn as "top lawn – nearly perfect." Yet, this lawn had been watered only once all summer to August!

In PA, Mrs. M.R. Mitter wrote "I've never watered it, only when I put the plugs in...Last summer we had it mowed 2 times...When everybody's lawns here are brown from drought, ours stays as green as ever." *That's how zoysia lawns cut water bills and mowing! Now read on!*

2 ENDS RE-SEEDING NEVER NEEDS REPLACEMENT

Plug in our zoysia grass and you'll never have to spend money on grass seed again! Since you won't be buying seeds, you won't need to dig and rake – then hope the seeds take root before birds eat them or the next hard rain washes them away.

3 NO NEED TO DIG UP OLD GRASS

Plant Amazoy in old lawn, new ground, whatever. Set 1" square plugs into holes in the soil 1 foot apart, checkerboard style. Plugs spread to drive out old, unwanted growth, weeds included. Easy instructions with your order. If you can put a cork into a bottle, you can plug in Amazoy.

4 FOR SLOPES, PLAY AREAS, AND BARE SPOTS

You can't beat Amazoy as the low cost answer for hard-to-cover spots, play-worn areas, or to end erosion on slopes.

5 IT STAYS GREEN IN SPITE OF HEAT AND DROUGHT

"The hotter it gets, the better it grows!" Plug-in zoysia thrives in blistering heat, yet it won't winter kill to 30° below zero. It just goes off its green color after killing frosts, begins regaining its green color as temps. in the spring are consistently warm. Of course, this varies with climate.



Thrives from part shade to full sun.

Every Plug GUARANTEED TO GROW IN YOUR SOIL No Ifs, Ands Or Buts!
Read a guarantee no grass seed can match!

Won't Winter Kill. Amazoy has survived temperatures to 30° below zero!

Won't Heat Kill. When other grasses burn out in summer drought and heat, Amazoy remains luxuriously green.

Any plug failing to grow in 45 days will be replaced FREE! To insure maximum freshness and viability, plugs are shipped not cut all the way through. Before planting, finish the separation with shears or knife. Our guarantee and planting method are your assurance of lawn success backed by more than five decades of specialized lawn experience!

6 CHOKES OUT CRABGRASS AND WEEDS ALL SUMMER

Your established Amazoy lawn grows so thick, it simply stops crabgrass and summer weeds from germinating!

7 NO NEED TO SPEND MONEY ON DANGEROUS CHEMICALS

Since zoysia lawns resist insects AND diseases, you avoid the risk of exposing your family or pets to weedkillers and pesticide poisons. Plug in Amazoy and save the money, avoid the risks!

Endless Supply of Plug Transplants

Transplant plugs from established Amazoy as you desire – plugged area grows over to provide all the plugs you'll ever need.

FREE! Exclusive Step-on or Amazoy Power Auger with orders of 400 plugs or more.

Starting your lawn is easy with our pluggers that cut away unwanted growth as they dig holes for plugs. Both are light, but rugged to help save time, work and effort. The step-on plugger is also an invaluable transplant tool.

Meyer Zoysia Grass was perfected by U.S. Govt., released in cooperation with U.S. Golf Association as a superior grass.

www.ZoysiaFarms.com/mag

ORDER NOW!
AND GET UP TO
900 PLUGS FREE!

© Zoysia Farm Nurseries 2008 3617 Old Taneytown Rd., Taneytown, MD 21787

NOT SHIPPED OUTSIDE USA or into WA or OR.

Please send me guaranteed Amazoy as checked:

PACK	# PLUGS	# Free Plugs	Free Bonus	Retail Value	Your PRICE	Add S&H	SAVINGS	
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic	100	—	—	\$ 7.95	\$ 7.95	\$ 2.50	—	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Basic Packs + 1 FREE	200	100	—	\$ 23.85	\$ 15.90	\$ 5.00	30%	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Basic Packs + 2 FREE	400	200	Free Step-on Plugger	\$ 56.65	\$ 31.80	\$ 7.50	40%	
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Basic Packs + 3 FREE	500	300	Free Step-on Plugger	\$ 72.55	\$ 39.75	\$ 10.00	42%	
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Basic Packs + 4 FREE	600	400	Free Step-on Plugger	\$ 88.45	\$ 47.70	\$ 12.50	44%	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9 Basic Packs + 7 FREE	900	700	Free-Amazoy Power Auger	\$ 152.15	\$ 71.55	\$ 15.00	50%	
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Basic Packs + 9 FREE	1000	900	Free-Amazoy Power Auger	\$ 176.00	\$ 79.50	\$ 17.50	54%	
<input type="checkbox"/> Extra Step-on Plugger				\$ 8.95	<input type="checkbox"/> Extra Amazoy Power Auger™ for 3/8" Drill			\$ 24.95

Mail to: Zoysia Farm Nurseries General Offices and Store
3617 Old Taneytown Road, Taneytown, MD 21787

Dept. 5182

Write price of order here \$ _____

MD. residents add 6% tax \$ _____

Shipping & Handling (S&H) \$ _____

ENCLOSED TOTAL \$ _____

Payment method (check one)

☐ Check ☐ MO

☐ MasterCard

☐ Visa

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

ZIP _____ Phone _____

We ship all orders the same day plugs are packed at earliest correct planting time in your area.

Bob Bullock: 'God Bless Texas'

BY KAYE NORTHCOTT

Texas has been blessed—or cursed, depending on your point of view—with some of the quirkiest and most brilliant politicians the world has ever seen. Standing tall among those is the late Bob Bullock, who served as Democratic secretary of state, comptroller of public accounts and lieutenant governor, ending his political career in 1999.

Journalists Dave McNeely and Jim Henderson have written a definitive, humorous and brutally candid biography (*Bob Bullock: God Bless Texas*, University of Texas Press, 2008) showing the Hillsboro native in all his brilliance, quirkiness and craziness.

No one who worked with, for or against Bullock was immune from his mercurial temper. "He was an active volcano, and the eruptions were always intense, usually brief, and wholly unpredictable," according to McNeely and Henderson.

Former State Sen. David Sibley of Waco recounted to the authors one of his early days in the Senate, when he tried to get recognized by then-Lieutenant Governor Bullock, who was gaveling bills before senators could debate them. After many futile waves toward the podium, Sibley finally got Bullock's attention. "The chair recognizes the crybaby from Waco," Bullock grumbled.

Later Sibley visited parliamentarian Bob Johnson seeking advice on how to get along with Bullock and the Senate. The lieutenant governor burst into the room, ranted at Johnson, one of his closest friends, then fired him and exited.

"Wait a minute," Sibley said. "What just happened here?"

"I get fired probably twice a day," Johnson explained. So it went with most of the people who were willing to put up with Bullock. The payoff was that he knew more about state government than anybody, and he knew how to get things done.

No matter what mood he was in, Bullock usually got the best of a bargain. Take the year telephone deregulation was being considered by the Legislature. House Speaker Pete Laney suggested that an upgrade in rural communications be used as a bargaining chip in negotiating with AT&T, which sorely wanted deregulation. Laney and Bullock agreed that telephone companies should pay for fiber-optic cable to aid schools and libraries.

According to McNeely and Henderson: A House bill was prepared that called for the industry to pay \$75 million a year over a six-year period, and the industry was prepared to accept that.

The head of AT&T met with Bullock and Laney, believing they would seal the deal.

"How much do you think the industry should pay?" Bullock asked.

"Oh, how about \$75 million a year for six years," the executive said.

"One hundred and fifty million," Bullock shot back without hesitation. "For 10 years."

Laney watched as the executive swallowed hard and, also without hesitation, said, "Okay."

The fund has greatly assisted education and telemedicine in rural areas.

Perhaps Bullock will be best remembered for his love of the state—his motto was "God Bless Texas"—and his devotion to Texas history. He was the driving force behind the Texas State History Museum in Austin, which is named in his honor. One of his final efforts as lieutenant governor was to remodel the Texas State Cemetery in Austin.

"Bullock was fascinated with cemeteries, so much that when he was courting his fifth and final wife, burial grounds were common dating destinations," according to the authors. In 1994, after attending a funeral at the state cemetery, Bullock summoned the heads of several state agencies and told them to start sprucing up the resting place. Bullock began devoting his lunch hours to inspection tours of the cemetery. After deciding the cemetery roads needed to be improved, he called the Texas Department of Transportation. At 6:30 a.m. the following Monday, several TxDOT trucks were lined up outside the gate, waiting for someone to let them in. McNeely and Henderson report, "One road was quickly repaved, but it got another update a year later, after it was declared State Highway 165 to qualify for federal funds." It was the "shortest state highway in Texas," according to the project manager.

What Bob Bullock wanted, Bob Bullock got. He was interred in a choice plot at the Texas State Cemetery June 20, 1999, two days after his death at the age of 69.



The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum is at 1800 N. Congress Ave. in Austin, or go to www.thestoryoftexas.com.

For information on the Texas State Cemetery, go to www.cemetery.state.tx.us.

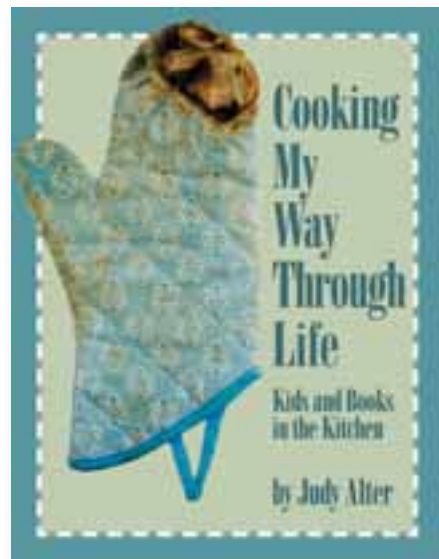
It's in the Can

BY SHANNON OELRICH *Judy Alter loves to cook and entertain, and she also likes to write about it. She's the author of more than 60 books but is having her first-ever cookbook, *Cooking My Way Through Life: Kids and Books in the Kitchen*, to be published in January 2009 by State House Press. Why did it take her 60-plus books before getting to a cookbook? Well, she's also the director of TCU Press, grandmother to seven and mother to four, so she keeps pretty busy. Here, she defends the time-honored use of canned soup to make a quick and tasty dish.*

Some time ago, I wrote a memoir/cookbook. Why I wrote it is too long a story to tell here, but it was fun to do, and I was pleased with the results. A local university press that publishes cookbooks reviewed the manuscript and, after many months, sent a detailed, six-page critique. The critique was like a roadmap for a revision, and I was grateful, but at one point it called my recipes "nice faux gourmet recipes." Referring to my recipe for that standard, King Ranch Chicken, the anonymous reviewer claimed she never used canned soups but always made her own white sauce.

Canned soup recipes likely have been around as long as canned soups, and probably have been controversial just as long. The critic's comment sounded like snobbery to me, but a lot of people simply prefer not to use canned ingredients. Some people object that canned soups are high in sodium and fat. Yes, but you can buy low-sodium and low-fat versions. Others simply prefer not to use canned soups and make everything from scratch.

I'm for canned soup in moderation. Almost everyone knows how to make King Ranch Chicken with soup, but here are a couple of less common recipes of which I'm fond.



COLIN'S QUESO

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 pound breakfast sausage (mild, medium or hot, according to taste)
- 1 jar (16 ounces) Pace picante sauce (again, mild, medium or hot, your choice)
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 pound Velveeta

Brown meat in skillet. Put meat in a crock pot, add remaining ingredients, and heat until cheese melts and ingredients are blended. Serve hot with corn chips.

SPINACH-BACON SPREAD

- 8 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 2 packages (10 ounces) chopped spinach, thawed and well drained
- 32 ounces Monterey jack cheese with jalapeños, shredded
- 1 can (11 ounces) cheddar cheese soup, undiluted
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese
- 1 teaspoon Greek seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon Tabasco
- Paprika (optional)
- 1 jar (2 ounces) diced pimiento, drained (optional)

Combine everything but bacon, pimiento and paprika. Heat until cheese melts. Stir in crumbled bacon, sprinkle with pimiento and paprika, if desired. Serve hot with crackers.



Judy Alter in her kitchen.



CELIE HARDEN *Pedernales Electric Cooperative*

Prize-winning recipe: **Harden Family Favorite Salad Dressing**

We loved this easy, flavorful salad dressing. Serve it over a bunch of greens with chopped tomatoes, cucumber and shredded carrots, and sprinkle some real bacon bits over the top. Yum!

HARDEN FAMILY FAVORITE SALAD DRESSING

- 3/4 cup vinegar
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 cups salad oil
- 1 can tomato soup
- 1/8 cup Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 tablespoon prepared mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon ground pepper
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 pound blue cheese, crumbled

Mix all ingredients except blue cheese in blender and blend to combine (or shake in a jar, or whisk in a bowl). Add blue cheese.

Serving size: 2 tablespoons. Per serving: 107 calories, 1.4 g protein, 9.5 g fat, 4 g carbohydrates, trace fiber, 308 mg sodium, 4 mg cholesterol

TORTILLA SOUP

- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 small can chopped green chilies
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 2 cans tomato soup
- 2 cans beef broth
- 2 cans chicken broth
- 2 cans whole tomatoes, roughly chopped
- 2 cans Rotel
- 3 cups water
- 2 teaspoons cumin
- 1 teaspoon red pepper
- 2 tablespoons cilantro
- 4 chicken breasts, cooked and shredded
- Tortilla chips, grated Monterey jack cheese, avocado, cilantro, sour cream

In large pot, saute onion, chilies and garlic in oil. Add next nine ingredients to vegetables and simmer, covered, 1 hour. Add chicken.

Serve with broken tortilla chips and grated Monterey jack cheese in bottom of bowl. Add avocado, cilantro and sour cream as desired.

Serving size: 2 cups. Per serving: 190 calories, 12 g protein, 5 g fat, 27.7 g carbohydrates, 2 g fiber, 1,979 mg sodium, 12 mg cholesterol

LAURIE HEALY

Comanche County Electric Cooperative

Cook's Tip: To reduce the fat, sodium or both in a recipe using canned soup, simply look for the low-fat and/or low-sodium versions of the soup. These versions are available for many popular flavors.

TEXAS CO-OP POWER 4TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY RECIPE CONTEST \$5,000 IN TOTAL PRIZES!

SPONSORED BY



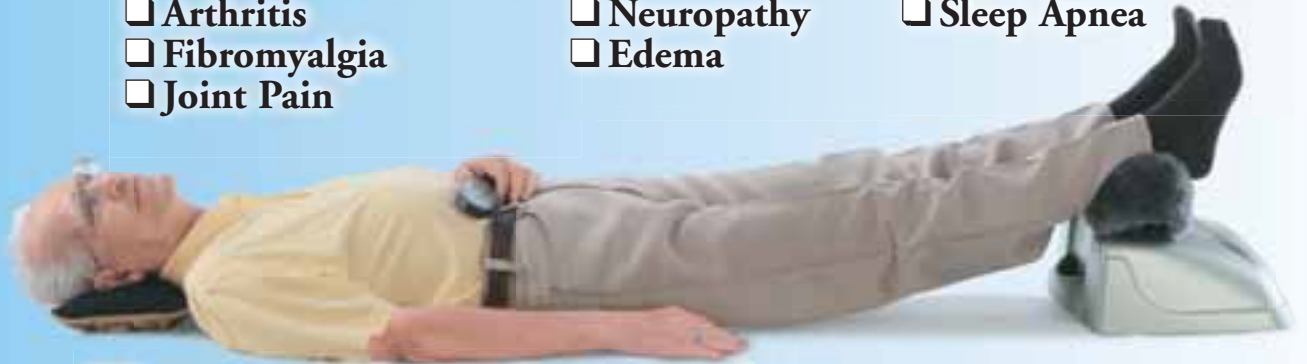
GRAND-PRIZE WINNER TAKES HOME \$3,000. FOUR RUNNERS-UP WILL EACH WIN \$500.

Attention, cooks: We'd like to share your best *original* holiday recipes with 2.8 million *Texas Co-op Power* readers and give you a chance to win cash prizes and the acclaim of your friends and family. All recipes must include a Pioneer Brand product such as flour, gravy mix, microwaveable gravy, biscuit & baking mix, or pancake mix. **Deadline for receipt of entries is September 10, 2008.** Winners will be announced in our December 2008 issue.

Up to three entries are allowed per person. Each should be submitted on a separate piece of paper. Entries **MUST** include your name, address and phone number, plus the name of your electric cooperative, or they will be disqualified. 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), you must include "Holiday Recipe Contest" in the subject line and submit one recipe per e-mail (no attachments). For official rules, visit www.texascoopower.com or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the address above.

If you suffer from

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stress | <input type="checkbox"/> Constipation | <input type="checkbox"/> Stiff Muscles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Headaches | <input type="checkbox"/> Back Pain | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Circulation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Blood Pressure | <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes | <input type="checkbox"/> Insomnia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arthritis | <input type="checkbox"/> Neuropathy | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleep Apnea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fibromyalgia | <input type="checkbox"/> Edema | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Pain | | |



You will enjoy using the Exerciser 2000 *Elite*™

*Receive some of the
benefits of aerobic
exercise without stress
or impact on the joints!*

How Does the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ Work?

Enjoy the benefits of passive exercise—just lie down, place your ankles on the ankle rest and let the machine do the work.

When you turn the machine on, it creates a 2 inch, right to left movement that gently moves the body back and forth.

This gentle swinging motion cycles up through the whole body, creating an exercise movement without stress or impact on the joints.

Relaxation of the back muscles

Oxygenation of the blood

Increased mobility

Increase circulation
throughout the body

Helps relieve stiffness
from head to toe



Features

- Weighs only 15 pounds
- 15" wide x 13.5" deep x 9.5" high
- ISO-9001 Certified
- FDA Class 1 Registered
- ETL Approval
- 5-speed operation
- 2 pre-programmed selections —one for relaxation and one for energizing
- Heavy duty, high torque DC motor
- Wide cushioned ankle rest
- 16 minute digital timer with safety shut-off
- 4 year parts and labor warranty

These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA.
Not intended to treat, cure or prevent any diseases.

Don't be fooled by cheap imitations

What people are saying about the Exerciser 2000 Elite™

After using the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ twice a day for one week the swelling in my ankles went away. It has also helped my breathing, as I can get out and walk without having to stop and catch my breath! Thank you. —*Shirley H., Florida*

As a Chiropractor, I would like to say that the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ enables people to benefit themselves at home. It is a valuable asset in moving lymph fluid, oxygenating the blood, increasing immune system function, maintaining mobility in the spine, and additionally freeing up a spine that has become stiff and arthritic. —*Garry Gorsuch, D.C.*

The ad I saw almost sounded "too good to be true". With your no risk money back guarantee I figured I had nothing to lose so I purchased the machine... and boy, am I glad I did! I am 75 years old and suffer from sciatica, which makes my back and legs tighten up and causes numbness. I was taking 8-10 Aleve™ every day. After using the machine for only 4 minutes, I noticed my lower back loosening up. Since I have been using the machine I haven't taken any pain pills and have been pain free. My sciatica is not giving me problems anymore and my body stays loosened up. I have also had a snoring problem for quite some time, however, since using the machine my snoring has subsided. My wife is so excited! I cannot tell you how much this machine has turned my life around. —*C. Cummings*

After having a stroke, I could no longer exercise the way I used to. As a result, I developed edema. A friend of mine introduced me to the Exerciser 2000 Elite™. I loved it and I purchased one for myself. After using the machine daily for a few weeks, my symptoms of edema were completely gone. I now use the machine twice a day for 16 minutes each time on speed 3. What a wonderful way to exercise. —*Robert M.*

I love using the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ after my morning workout. It is an excellent way to cool down and it helps to start my day off right. —*Deanna C., Kansas*

I have had constipation problems for over 25 years. Since I have been using the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ I have been regular every day and have begun to lose weight. This is truly a blessing and is so easy to use. —*Jeannie*

I am in my late 80's and have diabetes. The first thing I noticed when I started using my machine was that my feet were warm when I went to bed. They were always ice cold before. Because one of my problems is poor circulation, I use the machine three times a day for 10 minutes each; in the morning, late afternoon and just before bed. I almost forgot to mention that I have not been able to lift my arms above my head. Now I can do it. You think that's no big deal until you can't do it anymore. —*Ralph K.*

My husband and I have been into natural products all of our lives but nothing has ever affected us like the Exerciser 2000 Elite™. My husband is 72 and delivers flowers. He carries 5 gallon buckets of water. Since using the machine, his back hasn't hurt him at all. My hips would hurt if I stood too long and I would get weak and have to sit down. Now I can walk and sit as long as I want. I don't take pain medication anymore. In the morning, when I get out of bed I'm not stiff anymore. At 65, wow, this is great! Thank you for offering such a great machine. We are going to tell everyone we know about it. —*Cheryl J.*

I had suffered with sleep apnea for many years and had been taking drugs for it. I was told I would have to use a breathing apparatus. In the meantime, I was introduced to the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ and decided to purchase one. Within two weeks, I was sleeping more deeply and restfully than ever before. —*David B.*

~~Retail Price:~~
~~\$464.95~~

✓ **Use code C500** when ordering by phone or website and receive a promotional price of **\$359.95** and **FREE** shipping in the Continental United States.

✓ **90 Day No Risk Money Back Guarantee**—You have nothing to lose. If you are not completely satisfied, you can return it for a full refund. We provide a **FREE** return shipping label for your convenience.

Save \$90.00 on demo units when available.

1-800-748-7172
www.clarkenterprises2000.com

Clark Enterprises 2000 Inc.
The "Helping People Feel Better" Company
240 Berg Road, Salina, KS 67401



We Build More Homes in More Places.

Jim Walter Homes Builds Where You Want to Live.

Jim Walter Homes offers an array of stick-built homes with 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms and 800 to 2,000 square feet. Our in-house financing program will help you afford the right home, in the right place, at the right price!

As America's Largest On-your-lot Homebuilder, We Can Offer:

- 30-year, fixed-rate in-house financing
- \$0 down for qualified landowners
- No points, closing costs or application fees
- No payments or interest during construction
- No hidden fees or costs



Jim Walter
H O M E S

Trust America's Largest On-your-lot Homebuilder.
www.jimwalterhomes.com

**Call 800-4-WALTER or
visit www.jimwalterhomes.com
to find a sales center near you.**

Home illustrations may include additions, options or modifications not part of our standard offerings. Shrubs and landscaping have been added for effect. Specifications and plans subject to change and elimination. ©2008 Jim Walter Homes, Inc. Copyright strictly enforced.

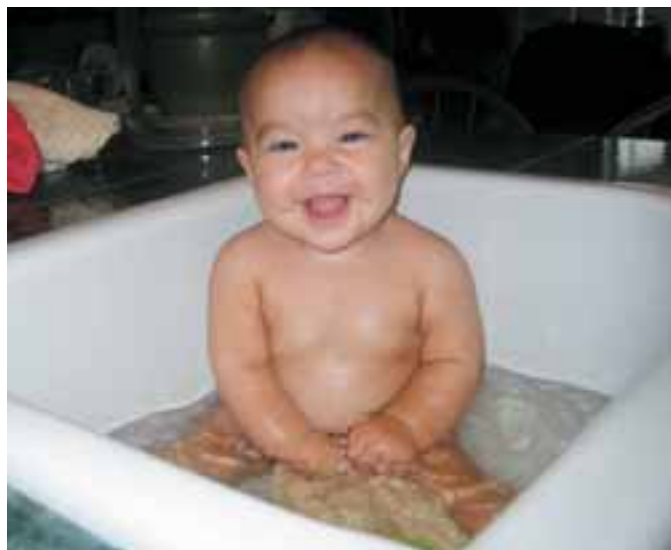


SMILES

Choosing the best photos from scores of smiling faces was no easy task. Readers sent in their cutest, funniest and happiest photos this month, and the smiles on this page are definitely contagious! —DACIA RIVERS

◀ **Brenda Reid** took this photograph of her 7-year-old grandson **Garrison** hugging her herding dog Ruby. Reid, a member of HILCO Electric Cooperative, says her dogs smile every time she asks them whether they are ready to go out to the barn.

▶ **Mimi Schendel**, a Karnes Electric Cooperative member, sent in this adorable photo of her smiling “granddog,” Jake. “He is so sweet and loveable and very, very spoiled,” Schendel said.



▲ Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative member **Rasmei Raymond** took this picture of her 8-month-old daughter, **Khatin**, enjoying a bath in her grandparents’ kitchen sink. “She is such a perfect angel,” Raymond said. “She usually smiles all day.”



◀ **Debbie Fleitman**, Cooke County Electric Cooperative member, sent in this image she took of her grandson **Conner Gebken** looking happy to be wearing a tuxedo for his aunt’s wedding.

▼ Victoria Electric Cooperative member **Stephanie Swanson** caught this picture of her 5-year-old son **Dillon** enjoying a bubble bath. “He put way too much soap in the tub,” Swanson said, “and the next thing I know, the tub is full of bubbles and all I can see is his face!”



Upcoming in Focus on Texas

ISSUE	SUBJECT	DEADLINE
June	Courthouses	Apr 10
July	Underwater	May 10
Aug	Country Roads	Jun 10
Sep	Perfect Pets	Jul 10
Oct	Old Houses	Aug 10
Nov	Signs	Sep 10

COURTHOUSES is the topic for our **JUNE 2008** issue. Send your photo—along with your name, address, daytime phone, co-op affiliation and a brief description—to **Courthouses**, Focus on Texas, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704, before **April 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. Please note that we cannot provide individual critiques of submitted photos. If you use a digital camera, e-mail your highest-resolution images to focus@texas-ec.org, or submit them on our website at www.texascoopower.com.

AROUND TEXAS AROUND TEXAS

APRIL

- 01 WARRENTON**
Antique Show & Sale,
(979) 249-3141
- 04 MARBLE FALLS** [4-6]
Highland Lakes Fine
Art & Wine Festival,
1-800-759-8178,
www.thunderbirdartists.com



4

MARBLE FALLS
Don't miss the Highland
Lakes Fine Art & Wine
Festival.

- 05 HICO**
Billy the Kid Day,
1-800-361-HICO
- ROCKPORT**
Herb Festival,
(361) 729-6037,
www.rockport-fulton.org
- ANDICE**
Spring Fling,
(254) 793-2565
- FREDERICKSBURG** [5-6]
Country Schools Open
House & Barbecue,
(830) 997-8655,
www.historicschools.org
- WOODVILLE** [5-6]
Dogwood Festival,
(409) 283-2632
- 06 CORSICANA**
Spring Garden Tour,
(903) 874-0848
- 11 KEMP** [11-12]
Quilt Show,
(903) 498-5083

- 12 BOERNE**
Kendall County
Outdoor Family Fair,
(830) 249-9343
- NACOGDOCHES**
Americana Music Fest,
1-888-OLDEST TOWN
(653-3788),
www.visitnacogdoches.org
- BURNET**
Rubber Ducky Race for
Literacy, (512) 756-7337
- PALACIOS**
Spring Plant Sale,
(361) 972-2615,
www.palacioschamber.com
- CHAPPELL HILL** [12-13]
Official Bluebonnet
Festival of Texas,
1-888-BRENHAM
(273-6426)
- 17 CROCKETT** [17-19]
Swing Fest,
(936) 544-2359,
www.crockettareachamber.org

- 18 SAN ANGELO** [18-20]
Texas Mesquite
Art Festival,
(830) 997-8515,
www.texasmesquiteassn.org
- CARTHAGE** [18-19]
Piney Woods Quilt Show,
www.carthagetexas.com
- BURTON** [18-20]
Cotton Gin Festival,
(979) 289-3378,
www.cottonginmuseum.org
- BUFFALO GAP** [18-20]
Wine and Food Summit,
1-800-367-1721
- TERRELL** [18-20]
Heritage Jubilee,
1-800-877-TERRELL
(837-7355),
www.terrelltexas.com
- LITTLEFIELD** [18-20]
XIT Heritage Bluegrass
Festival, (806) 385-3870



two
texas
icons

CIRCA 1885 ★ 1885 EST.

one
texas
town



Waco's filled with unexpected indulgences: sip a fizzy, hand-made soda at the Dr Pepper Museum, take an insider look at the legendary lawmen of the Texas Ranger Museum, or just enjoy a stroll along the river and explore the 416-acre Cameron Park. Exit 335-B for a delightful detour or plan your trip ahead at www.wacocvb.com and pack in the fun.

WACO
TEXAS

HAWAII

SPECIALTY AGRICULTURAL TOUR

The Best Escorted Vacations You'll Ever Find!

15 Days, 4 Islands

from
\$1,679* PP

Departs Mondays & Thursdays in January 2009. Includes inter island airfare, hotel accommodations, transfers, baggage handling. Escort on each island. Staying in Oahu, Hawaii (Kona & Hilo), Maui and Kauai. Sightseeing includes Honolulu City Tour with Pearl Harbor, Volcano National Park, Kauai Cattle & Sheep Ranch, Parker Cattle Ranch Museum, Orchid Nursery, Macadamian Nut Factory Tour, Oceanic Fish Farm, Waialua Riverboat Cruise, Fern Grotto, and more as listed in brochure. Airfare extra and starts at \$800. Plus \$149 tax & services. Space is Limited. Make Your Reservation today...

Call for a FREE Brochure!

'YOUR MAN' TOURS

1 800 888 8204

AROUND TEXAS AROUND TEXAS

18 ENNIS [18-20]
Bluebonnet Trails Festival,
1-888-366-4748,
www.visitennis.org

FAYETTEVILLE [18-20]
Bluegrass Festival
& Grand Jam,
(979) 378-2753,
www.texaspickinpark.com

DAYTON [18-20]
Ole Tyme Days Festival,
(936) 334-5556,
www.oletymedays.com

19 BRYANS MILL
Spring Fling,
(903) 835-5016

WIMBERLEY
Butterfly Day,
(512) 847-6969,
www.emilyann.org

PAIGE
Chicken To Go
VFD Benefit,
(512) 626-0846



WIMBERLEY
Check out Butterfly Day.

19 MILAM
Gaines-Oliphint House
Pioneer Trade Fair,
(409) 787-4088

EDOM [19-20]
Old-Fashioned Street Fair,
(903) 852-4438,
www.aprilinedom.com

TURKEY [19-26]
Bob Wills Day,
(806) 423-1033

25 CASTROVILLE
Renaissance Faire,
(830) 538-9182,
www.medinavalleyumc.org

25 FORT DAVIS [25-26]
Native Plant Sale, (432)
364-2499, www.cdri.org

STEPHENVILLE [25-26]
Erath County Antique
Tractor Show,
(254) 918-1295,
www.stephenvilletexas.org

26 CANYON LAKE
Barbecue Cook-Off,
1-800-528-2104,
www.canyonlakechamber.com

GOLDTHWAITE
Barbecue Goat Cook-Off
& Fair, (325) 648-3619,
www.goldthwaite.biz

MARTINDALE
FunFest VFD Benefit,
(512) 357-0323

ALVIN
Frontier Days & Parade,
(281) 331-5499,
www.alvinrotary.org

BROWNWOOD [26-27]
Heart of Texas Quilt Show,
(325) 642-1544

MAY

02 LOCKHART
Cinco De Mayo
(512) 398-9600

03 HUNTSVILLE
Airing of the Quilts,
(936) 295-2150

PATTISON
German Sausage Dinner,
(281) 934-8218

Events are listed according
to space available; see the
full listing at www.texascooppower.com.

Event information can be mailed
to **Around Texas**, 2550 S. IH-35,
Austin, TX 78704, faxed to
(512) 486-6254, e-mailed to
aroundtx@texas-ec.org, or
submitted on our website at
www.texascooppower.com.
Please submit events for
June by April 10.

DENTON ARTS FESTIVAL

Swing on in!

HEADLINERS

April 25th-27th
Quakertown Park
www.dentonjazzfest.com

Friday, 9p.m. - The Neville Brothers
Saturday, 9p.m. - Delbert McClinton
Sunday, 7p.m. - Brave Combo

Fantastic music on six stages all weekend.
175 fine artists, delicious food, beverages,
and fun for everyone!

DENTON Convention & Visitors Bureau
Denton, TX 76201
and all that jazz! 800/381-1818 www.discoverdenton.com

We are Weslaco
...and this time of year, we see onions.

Is there a better time to be in Weslaco than springtime? Anytime is a great time, but springtime has a uniqueness that brings the first festival of the year, Onion Fest on Saturday, April 5th. The colors of spring make it a perfect time to explore the great outdoors in Weslaco's three nature preserves. Five minutes away is Nuevo Progreso Mexico, a great place to shop and dine. Then unwind in any of our stellar hotels and get ready for another grand day.

Call for more information on Weslaco's Festival, nature sites and hotels. 1-888-968-2102
onionfestival@weslaco.com, nature@weslaco.com

www.weslaco.com

Scarborough Renaissance Festival

April 5 - May 26 • 10 AM - 7 PM
Saturdays, Sundays and Memorial Day Monday

Step Back in Time for the Time of Your Life

Just 30 minutes south of Dallas (just north of Waxahatchie)
ScarboroughRenFest.com • 972-938-3247

Discount tickets at Tom Thumb and Austin Area Randall!

Lay your hands on the cannon believed to have fired the first shot of the Texas Revolution. Clap your hands for Ruby Begonia, the racing turkey. Run your hands over the cool stone walls of the oldest Spanish fort west of the Mississippi. Perhaps nowhere is Texas' history deeper, or richer, than along a U.S. 183 route that encompasses three county seats—Gonzales, Cuero and Goliad—and gently bends through Southeastern Texas. The route is simple enough: Drive about 32 miles from Gonzales to Cuero and about another 32 on to Goliad. It's a pastoral tour with pastures and rolling hills. But the history along the way is as fierce as the Mexican and Texan soldiers who once spilled blood in battle. It's as vicious as the Goliad Massacre and as wild as the black Spanish cattle that paved the way for Longhorns.

GONZALES

Here, history looms as large as the "Come and Take It" cannon painted on the city's water tower. The tiny weapon mounted on wooden wheels in the **GONZALES MEMORIAL MUSEUM** may not look like much, but when you learn the history behind what some historians say was the cannon used in the Battle of Gonzales—and grab hold of its barrel—feel the goosebumps rise. In 1831, the Mexican government gave settlers a cannon for protection but ultimately demanded that it be returned. The Texans said no, and on October 2, 1835, confronted Mexican forces with the cannon and a flag saying "Come and Take It!" Accounts say that when the upstart settlers fired the cannon, the Mexican soldiers fled. That first shot for Texas independence will be relived October 3–5 during the annual **COME AND TAKE IT FESTIVAL**. The shot is re-enacted at the **GONZALES PIONEER VILLAGE LIVING HISTORY CENTER**.

Old Jail Museum and Chamber of Commerce, (830) 672-6532, www.gonzalestexas.com
Gonzales Memorial Museum, (830) 672-6350

GONZALES to GOLIAD

The echoes of the Texas Revolution still reverberate through these cities.

BY CAMILLE WHEELER



Gonzales Pioneer Village Living History Center, (830) 672-2157, www.gonzalespioneerlivinghistory.com

CUERO

Stay in Cuero—the self-proclaimed **TURKEY CAPITAL OF THE WORLD**—for any length of time, and soon you'll be talking turkeys. Make that lots of turkeys, as in the thousands that farmers once herded to town en route to packing plants. A century ago, visitors flocked to Cuero to see as many as 20,000 turkeys paraded through Cuero. The turkey drives are gone, but thousands of spectators still gather annually (October 10–12 this year) for **TURKEYFEST** and the **GREAT GOBBLER GALLOP**. Cuero's turkey, Ruby Begonia, races Paycheck, his archrival from Worthington, Minnesota, for the

Traveling Turkey Trophy of Tumultuous Triumph. (And now you know why the Cuero High School football team is called the Gobblers.) But turkeys aren't the only attraction: Cuero and DeWitt County—which the state Legislature declared the **WILDFLOWER CAPITAL OF TEXAS** in 1999—show off their blooming beauty from April 1–30 during the **WILDFLOWER CELEBRATION**.

Chamber of Commerce, (361) 275-2112, www.cuero.org, www.turkeyfest.org

GOLIAD

Head south of town to visit the **PRESIDIO LA BAHÍA**—the oldest Spanish fort west of the Mississippi River and the only fully restored Spanish presidio in Texas—and the accompanying **MISSION NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL ESPÍRITU SANTO DE ZÚÑIGA**. Franciscan priests established the original Mission Espíritu Santo in 1722 at Matagorda Bay, near Presidio La Bahía (the Bay), which was built in 1721 near what is now called Lavaca Bay. After two moves, both forts were relocated to opposite banks of the San Antonio River.

It was in the presidio's chapel, on December 20, 1835, that the first Declaration of Texas Independence was formally declared. And it was here, near the fort, that Mexican dic-

tator Antonio López de Santa Anna ordered the execution of Col. James Walker Fannin and 341 of his men on Palm Sunday, March 27, 1836. An onsite monument honors the victims of the **GOLIAD MASSACRE**, some of whom are buried on the grounds. The presidio's chapel is an active church and retains its original walls and groined vaulted ceiling.

Goliad County Chamber of Commerce, (361) 645-3563, www.goliadcc.org

Presidio La Bahía, (361) 645-3752, www.presidio labahia.org

Mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga, (361) 645-3405, www.tpwd.state.tx.us

Camille Wheeler of Austin has started hitting the road for Texas Co-op Power.

Anywhere In
TEXAS

got land?



Get \$0 Down On A Beautiful New Home

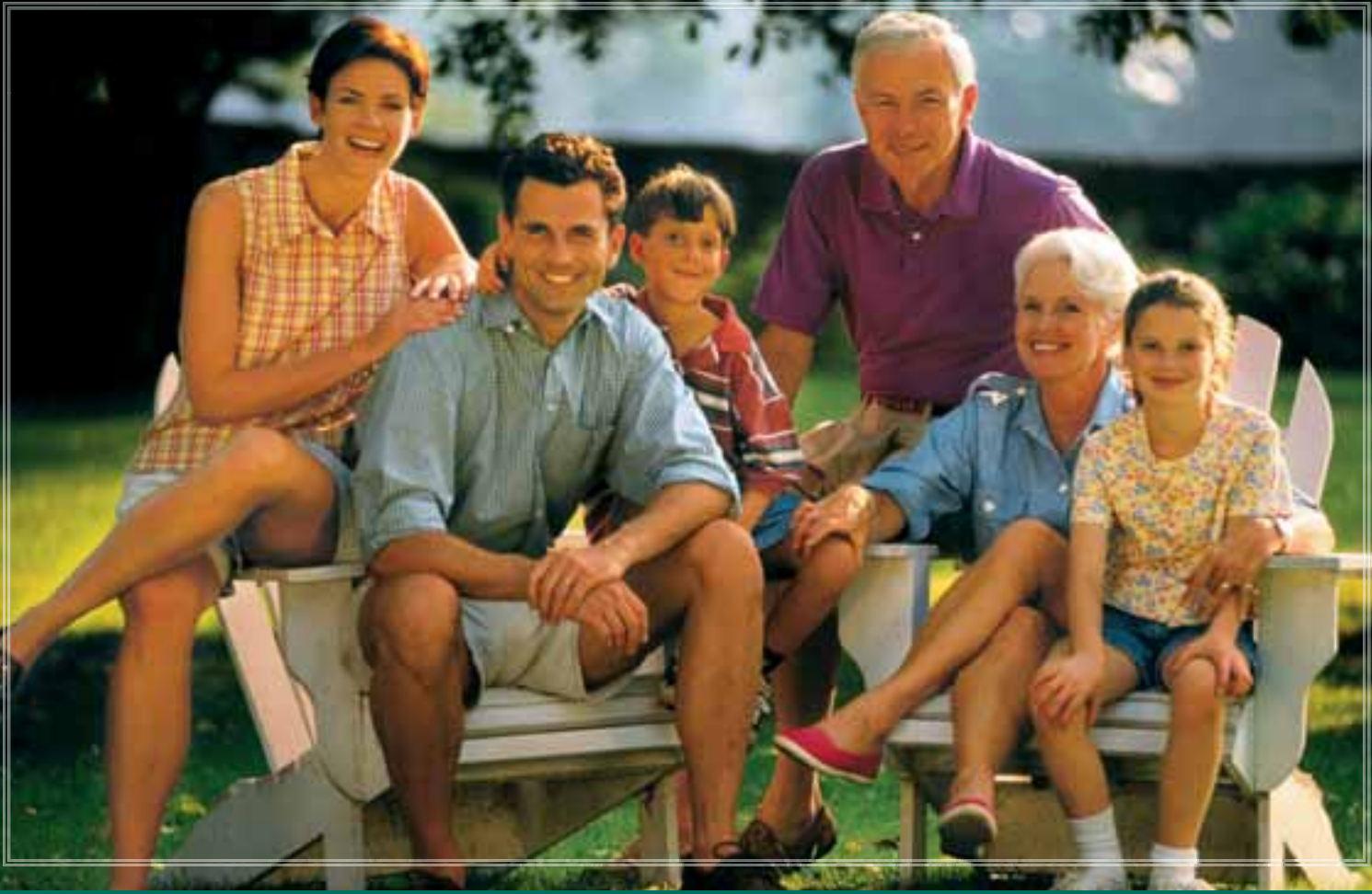
Can't find a builder for your land? Still trying to save up a down payment?

Qualified landowners can now own a beautiful custom Palm Harbor home without a down payment. That's right - \$0 down! Which means you can move into a new home sooner than you ever thought possible.

Palm Harbor specializes in high-quality, affordable, on-your-lot construction. Our homes are energy efficient and offer a wide variety of custom features and options. If you own land, this is your chance to build the home of your dreams for less than you ever imagined. Call us today and let us show you how Palm Harbor Homes delivers more home for your money.

Call Toll Free: 1-866-55-0-DOWN (1-866-550-3696)

For a free informational DVD visit www.palmharbor.com/free



Germania: For Generations...

For more than 110 years Germania has been the insurance Texans trust. Whether it's home, auto or life coverage, generations of Texans have discovered the difference having a responsive, local insurance company makes.

Ask your family, friends and neighbors why *they* trust Germania Insurance. Find out why Germania is a tradition handed down, for generations...

- Competitive rates
- Multiple discount options
- Exceptional, responsive claims service 24/7
- Serving Texas since 1896



The Insurance Texans Trust

HOME • AUTO • LIFE

1-800-392-2202

www.GermaniaInsurance.com