

# TEXAS CO-OP POWER

## WINDS *of* CHANGE

**Kathy Lusk Tracks Wind  
from Canada to Mexico**



**PLUS**

**A Good Day for  
Flying Steel**

**Farmers' Bounty**

**Hit the Road:**

**Corpus Christi to the King Ranch**

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# June 2008

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## 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.

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# POWER TALK



## HOW DOES YOUR GARBAGE GROW? WAY TOO FAST!

In 2006, Americans produced 251 million tons of municipal solid waste prior to recycling, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). That works out to about 4½ pounds a day for every man, woman and child in the country. Fortunately, 82 million tons of that material was recycled or composted that year.

The EPA estimates that materials recycled in 2006 include:

<b>AUTO BATTERIES</b> 99 percent	<b>TIRES</b> 34.9 percent
<b>STEEL CANS</b> 62.9 percent	<b>PLASTIC HDPE MILK AND WATER BOTTLES</b> 31 percent
<b>YARD TRIMMINGS</b> 62 percent	<b>PLASTIC SOFT DRINK BOTTLES</b> 30.9 percent
<b>PAPER AND PAPERBOARD</b> 51.6 percent	<b>GLASS CONTAINERS</b> 25.3 percent
<b>ALUMINUM BEER AND SOFT DRINK CANS</b> 45.1 percent	

# letters

your back is turned! It creates a sterile monoculture thwarting all efforts at habitat creation.

**MAGGIE LIVINGS**

*Volunteer, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Loyal Valley*



## MESQUITE WORSE THAN BAMBOO

Author Clay Coppedge incorrectly states (March 2008) that bamboo once served as a windbreak along the River Styx—a claim that those of us intimately knowledgeable about the River Styx know is incorrect. The windbreaks along the River Styx are composed of South Texas' own mesquite trees, which are surely much more of a horror than the lovely bamboo plant. It is fitting and appropriate that mesquite wood's most useful purpose is its embers, which flavor Texas barbecue, perhaps an ethereal lesson to all.

**GUY MATTHEWS**

*San Patricio Electric Cooperative*

## STICK WITH NATIVE PLANTS

"Texas Backyards Gone Wild" (March 2008) was an excellent inspiration for folks who are rethinking traditional landscaping and moving toward habitat creation with the use of native plants.

Unfortunately, when I turned the page and saw the article on "Bamboo: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"—all I could see was the ugly. This was certainly a disappointing article to follow "Gone Wild." Bamboo, like the Nandina, or Heavenly Bamboo, a native of China and Japan, (*Nandina domestica*) is non-native, terribly invasive, and will choke out our native vegetation while

## LILT AND TUNA FISH, UGH

I, too, have fond memories of those Toni or Lilt home permanents ("A Permanent Memory," April 2008) but Mom didn't make stew on those days. My younger brother to this day will not eat tuna fish sandwiches because he said on entering the house on "permanent" days he knew from the smell it would be tuna fish for supper. Of course, I don't remember that, but the school pictures are a reminder of the fuzzy hair!

**ROSIE YAW**

*Pedernales Electric Cooperative*

## MANY HATS OFF

Hats off to Tim Gearn, who is featured in "Hereford's Backyard Ferris Wheel" (February 2008), and his compassion for us folks of another era and anyone who desires a simpler, slower pace of life.

I don't mind being 90 feet high; it's those 70-foot drops of roller coasters and splash-water log rides that give me heart palpitations.

Hats off also to the "Country Doctors" (February 2008), but, most of all, to *Texas Co-op Power* articles recognizing dedicated employees. I reported an outage at 2:30 a.m. one night, and by 3:30 a.m. a very nice employee from San Bernard Electric Cooperative called, telling me service was restored, everything was A-OK and to have a good night's rest.

**HELEN T. ROGERS**

*San Bernard Electric Cooperative*

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](mailto:letters@texas-ec.org), or submit online at [www.texascoopower.com](http://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](http://www.texascoopower.com).



# H A P P E N I N G S

August 27 is the 100th anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson's birth, and the LBJ National Historical Park is having many fun events this summer. We recommend watching **"MOVIES UNDER THE STARS"** at the LBJ Ranch airplane hangar. LBJ converted the hangar into a theater where he frequently projected first-run movies for friends and neighbors.



Those bygone movie fests will be re-created on a professional screen. The parks staff has been careful to select movies it knows LBJ watched at the ranch. Free for your viewing pleasure will be "True Grit" on June 21, "Oliver" on July 26 and "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" on August 9. Bring the kids, chairs or blankets and a picnic basket. Come around 6 p.m. The movies start at dark.

For a full list of what's planned, go to [www.nps.gov/lyjo](http://www.nps.gov/lyjo).

## MILE-HIGH ACCOMMODATIONS IN FORT DAVIS

The Hotel Limpia, which sits next to the town square in Fort Davis, once boasted that, at a mile above sea level, it was the highest hotel in Texas. It was built in 1912 by the Union Trading Company to accommodate ranching families who came to town for supplies as well as tourists, who continue to visit the 31-room inn.

Today the hotel is run by Joe Duncan and his wife, Lanna. In addition to the main building, constructed out of locally quarried pink granite, the Hotel Limpia offers accommodations in two annexes and in several historic homes nearby. It features spacious porches with rocking chairs perfect for kicking back and enjoying the mountain air.

— From *Historic Hotels of Texas: A Traveler's Guide*, Texas A&M University Press, first edition, 2007



## WHO KNEW?


The Governor's Division of Emergency Management is headquartered in a bunker 26 feet below the Department of Public Safety headquarters building in Austin. The 12,000-square-foot bunker was built in 1964 and carved into the area's limestone and caliche soil. Plumbing and lighting fixtures were mounted with shock-absorbing springs to protect them from breakage. In 1992, renovations doubled the size of the shelter, which is equipped with kitchen and decontamination facilities, and added upgrades such as state-of-the-art computer equipment and communication systems. In case of emergency, workers would be protected behind 10,000-pound entrance doors. The bunker provides protection from radioactive fallout and can resist the structural effects of a 20-megaton blast within 5 miles.

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CHECK THEM OUT

## PERFECT HARMONY

It used to be that if you wanted to hear the Quebe Sisters Band, you'd have to go to the Fort Worth area.

But there they were in March performing at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's meeting in Anaheim, California. There they were again showcased at



Austin's South by Southwest Music Festival. In May, they were booked to represent Justin Boots at Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway shareholders meeting. (Billionaire Buffett likes to play his ukulele with them.) There's just no telling where you will find the sisters.

The sweet, picture-perfect Grace, Sophia and Hulda, ages 22, 20 and 17, respectively, sing close harmony on country swing, hot jazz and Western classics. And they play three mean fiddles—usually accompanied by Joey McKenzie on the guitar and perhaps a couple of bass players. Now you can order their CDs at [www.quebesistersband.com](http://www.quebesistersband.com) or write: QSB, P.O. Box 1844, Burleson, TX 76097

# winds of change

BY EILEEN MATTEI

PHOTOS BY WOODY WELCH

Ten years ago, long before Texas became the nation's largest producer of wind power with the largest wind farm, Big Spring real estate agent Kathy Lusk assisted a developer interested in finding wind power sites. Soon, Lusk became one of Texas' first wind power scouts and started AKL Wind Energy Scouting.

Wind scout Kathy Lusk takes her dog, Pearl, while driving thousands of miles a year west of Interstate 35 between the Canadian and Mexican borders.





“I LEARNED ON MY OWN BY GOING TO WIND SITES AND STUDYING on the Internet. Scouting is not that far a stretch from what I did researching property ownership,” says Lusk, 49, a certified property manager who once managed a Big Spring mall.

Exploring likely wind farm areas, the West Texas native now drives thousands of miles a year in the region west of Interstate 35 between the Canadian and Mexican borders. Equipped with U.S. Geological Survey wind maps, Lusk and her 12 contractors scout potential sites usually at the request of a developer, although they sometimes prospect independently or at the landowners’ request. The ideal site is an uninhabited windy area with documented wind speed measurements that’s near roads and power transmission lines to population centers. Contractors also need owners interested in signing long-term leases.

“Wind power is a supplemental energy source that can prolong our finite resources,” Lusk says. A Master Gardener, a nature photographer and an advocate for native plants and wildlife habitat, she says that a love of nature drew her into the renewable energy field. Although Lusk became a wind power scout by chance, a passion and a preference for wind energy have kept her there and made her successful. “We can tell you pretty quickly whether a site will be profitable or not,” says Lusk, whose husband, Dan, now works with her. Basically, the farther wind-generated electricity must go to reach customers, the stronger the initial source must be.

The likelihood of a wind power scout showing up on your doorstep is growing as investment in wind energy increases in West Texas and the Panhandle. In 2008, Texas is scheduled to

add more wind turbines than any other state. Lusk, who helps develop wind contracts, recommends becoming informed about what a wind power lease would mean for you and your property. Lusk agreed to answer general questions about wind energy leases for those lucky enough to have viable wind power property and those of us who at least would like to dream about it. Of course, if a lease becomes viable, one should always get legal advice about specific contracts.

#### WHAT TIME FRAMES ARE WE LOOKING AT?

Most wind energy leases run for at least 15 years with 10-year renewal options. These are multi-generational leases, so you should get your immediate family involved. Realistically, it takes five to seven years from the time you first see my face to the time you get your first production check.

#### WHAT ARE THE BASIC COMPONENTS OF A WIND FARM LEASE?

A lease should cover the three phases of the wind power development process: feasibility, construction and operations. In the first, or development phase, you are typically paid an option fee per acre while the site feasibility is researched.

In the construction phase, the landowner receives payments from the developer to install necessary cattle guards and fences and improve roads to handle heavy turbine parts. A lot of one-time payments occur during this phase, such as lost hunting lease revenue, damages for the holes where the towers are placed and a lay-down yard where the developer stages equipment.



#### WHAT KIND OF INPUT CAN I HAVE ON THE CONSTRUCTION?

The good developer will talk about placement with the landowner, who has the opportunity to request changes during the preliminary design stage. Examine the standard setbacks that set minimum distances from houses, barns and roads, including the construction crane's 40-foot-wide path.

#### WHAT SHOULD A LANDOWNER EXPECT DURING THIS PHASE?

A project's primary landowner will receive a royalty. If a wind farm site has multiple, small-tract owners, each acre nets a fixed percentage of production annually. That proportionate payment amount is set up front and trued up at the end of the year. The lease should state a minimum yearly payment per megawatt and guarantee you a payment even if part of the project is down.

#### WHAT ARE THE GOING RATES FOR WIND TURBINES IN OPERATION?

It varies widely depending on the developer, the size of the turbine and the location. The minimum payment is around 3 percent of gross. Turbines range from 1 to 3 megawatts. At the very least, you should receive about \$4,000 per megawatt per year. A wind farm near a high electrical demand (load) area and a great source of wind means more money for the landowner and for the developer.

#### HOW DOES A WIND POWER LEASE DIFFER FROM AN OIL LEASE?

We deal with surface owners only. Wind cannot be severed from the surface of land and the right of capture. If the land

is sold, the lease transfers to the new owner.

#### WHY HAS NO ONE ASKED ABOUT LEASING MY LAND WHERE THE WIND IS ALMOST CONSTANT?

How far will the electricity travel to be delivered? Is a main power grid nearby to carry the electricity? The shorter the distance from the source to the load (or demand), the more viable the site. The Public Utilities Commission of Texas recently approved new power transmission lines that can help move future wind energy to urban areas.

#### WHAT ABOUT TURBINES BECOMING DANGEROUS AT HIGH SPEEDS?

Even working at maximum power, a wind turbine does not spin as fast as a windmill pumping water. You see the newer generation turbines' individual, 300-foot-long blades in motion. Wind turbines shut down or disconnect whenever winds go above 45 miles per hour.

"I don't want them just everywhere, but I would like to see enough wind farms that we could get away from depending on finite sources and other countries for energy," Lusk says.

Wind power's a serious business, but she's seen the lighter side, too, like when one Texas rancher told the wind developer that the developer would have to pay for cattle guards at entrances to the ranch. Then the developer—from New York—asked, "How much do you pay a cattle guard?"

---

*Harlingen writer Eileen Mattei is a Nueces Electric Cooperative-Retail member.*

Lusk's job includes lots of fieldwork.





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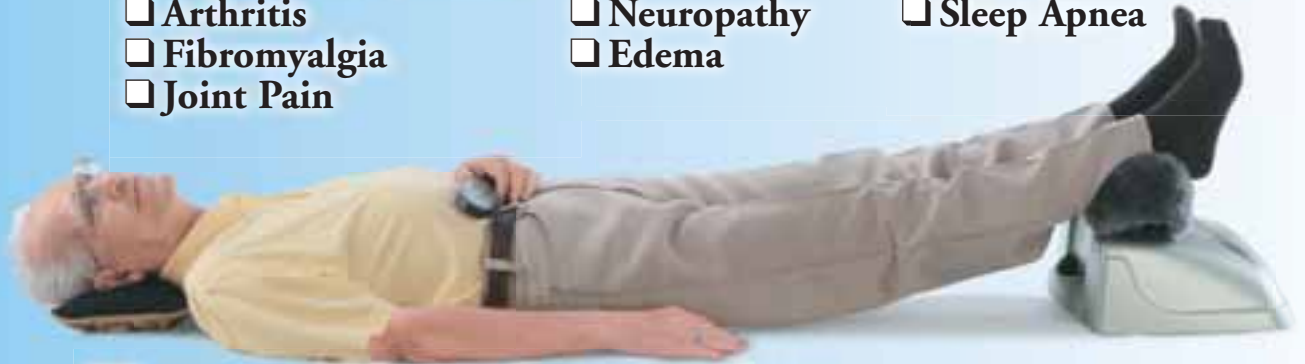
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# What people are saying about the Exerciser 2000 Elite™

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.*

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# 'A GOOD DAY FOR FLYING STEEL'

BY KAYE NORTHCOTT  
PHOTOS BY WOODY WELCH



AS NIGHT FALLS OVER THE WEST TEXAS MESAS, CIVILIZATION recedes into the shadows. The vast dark sky, studded with countless sparkling stars, and the road ahead lit by headlights is all I see as I drive north toward Sweetwater on State Highway 70.

Then blinking red lights appear on the horizon. First, only a few. Then, a veritable net of them. Little red lights fill the sky as if zealously decorated for Christmas. Driving closer, I see hundreds of towers, each with two red lights signaling aircraft of their presence.

And what a presence they are. I'm heading toward the three largest wind energy projects in the United States.

The scene is repeated across much of the Rolling Plains, West Texas and the Panhandle—country where the dark night sky dominated for eons and captured the imaginations of guitar-strumming cowboys who slept beneath it. The blinking red lights mark the country's new behemoths—wind power turbines.

In the daylight, the lights give way to a vista of white, monolithic three-armed giants, some of which sprout from the world's largest wind farm, the Horse Hollow Wind Energy Center with 421 turbines sprawling over 47,000 acres in Taylor and Nolan counties. That's just one of the wind farms in these two counties that compose about 40 percent of Texas' wind power production today. Towers are going up so fast across West Texas that the count will be different next week. Part of the boom has been spurred by federal tax credits for wind turbine construction scheduled to cease at the end of the year.

There were 109 wind turbines installed in Texas in 1995 and 897 during 2007, according to the Alternative Energy Institute at West Texas A&M University. The average rating of each turbine escalated during that period from .72 megawatts (MW) to 1.82 MW. The heights of the towers have grown from an initial 80 feet to an average of 260. The huge, sweeping





## Wind Turbines

The tallest wind tower in America—345 feet—is in Scurry County at Enel North America's Snyder Wind project. By comparison, the Statue of Liberty is 305 feet.

The tips of a 300-foot-diameter wing-spread are moving at about 100 mph. The blades revolve about 21 times per minute.

There were 109 wind turbines installed in Texas in 1995 and 897 during 2007.

## Who Taps the Wind?

It may surprise some to learn that Germany leads all nations in production of wind power. It also has a huge investment in solar power. Both technologies are heavily boosted by tax incentives.

Below are the World Wind Energy Association's rankings of wind power by megawatts installed:

Germany	22,247
United States	16,819
Texas	4,356
California	2,439
Spain	15,145
India	7,850
China	5,899

## When the Wind Dies

On February 26, 2008, ERCOT, the state's largest grid operator, asked interruptible industrial customers—those who had agreed in advance to curtail operation in times of crisis—to shut down at 6:41 p.m. Electricity demand had surged, several conventional plants were offline, and output from West Texas wind farms had dropped drastically because the wind abated. Available wind-generated electricity plummeted about 1,700 MW to about 300 MW. In other words, without warning the system lost the capacity to power approximately 140,000 homes.

To avoid rolling blackouts, the industrial users ceased operation until 9:40 p.m., when the ERCOT grid was returned to stability. Such customers get a break on electricity rates for being flexible in their consumption. The lack of wind power also caused wholesale prices of electricity to spike. ERCOT even had to buy electricity from Mexico.

"The event was a prime example of why energy experts say that every megawatt of electric power derived from wind farms must be backed up by a predictable power source such as natural gas or coal," said Mike Williams, president/CEO of Texas Electric Cooperatives.

There can also be problems if the wind blows too hard. At 45 mph and above, turbines have to be shut off for safety reasons.

wings can revolve at as many as 21 times a minute.

Some energy experts in Texas believe wind farms are being overbuilt, but there's no question that the wind business is booming. In the dusty parking lots at wind farm construction sites and at motels from McCamey to Snyder, out-of-state license plates on pickups and cars tell a story of economic opportunity. There's a shortage of trained assembly technicians across all the windy plains states.

On a sunny November morning, we cruise wind farm territory where Big Country and Taylor electric cooperatives provide the local electric power, including the backup electricity for wind farms' on-site operations. Scurry County boasts the tallest wind tower in America—345 feet—at Enel North America's Snyder Wind project. By

tricity such as that derived from natural gas or coal. Otherwise, our homes could be lighted and cooled only when the wind was blowing—and it blows the least in the sweltering heat of summer afternoons. All told, the present Texas wind industry has the capacity to produce about 5,000 MW of wind energy, but the transmission capability for only about 3,400 MW. Last year, a little less than 3 percent of the state's electric power was produced from wind.

Our route to wind country should have taken us past the Price Daniel Detention Facility, but traffic is being diverted. Ahead, a convoy of trucks is preparing a county road intersection to withstand the passage of a derrick crane with a 250-ton lifting capacity. First, dump trucks lay a thick bedding of dirt on the road for cushioning. Then

slang meaning the wind is calm enough for a crane operator and ground crew to heft a multi-ton blade into place some 200 feet above the ground.

I see workers, tiny against the span of a single blade, tighten the connections for a lift and signal the crane operator to hoist it over their heads. But I move on before the blade is attached to the tower.

At Snyder Wind Farm, I walk with my head tilted back, taking in the enormity of these modern-day windmills. In the parking lot are pickups and cars from Nebraska, Utah, Minnesota, Nevada, Oklahoma, Montana and Wyoming, not to mention Texas. Construction is going on all around us.

The place is an ant bed of activity. In one direction, men are digging deep ditches for underground electric lines. It's not a matter of aesthetics but rather of necessity. Above-ground lines would impede the transport of wind turbine parts. In the distance, steel is flying.

Riding in a pickup with wind farm employee Austin Hill of nearby Merkel, we weave around completed windmills standing smack dab in the middle of a luxuriant cotton field. It's surprisingly quiet. The wind at 8 mph is not strong enough to produce electricity. Instead, the tower's three blades are circling casually in the breeze. The movement so high above me is somewhat deceptive. The tips of the 300-foot-diameter wingspread are moving at about 100 mph. Even standing directly under the rotating blades, the only sound is a rhythmic, muffled "swoosh."

### Windfall for West Texas

WEST TEXAS INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS are reaping rewards from the boom. The Trent school system has been able to afford a new school building and a stadium with artificial turf for its six-man football team. Individual landowners are also enjoying a new steady source of lease income.

Carl Williams, president of the Big Country Electric Cooperative board of directors, has allowed six turbines to be constructed on the high-elevation plains where he raises cattle and cotton. One of the turbines is 300 yards from his back door. From his driveway, it looks as if it is looming over the Williamses' one-story house. The windmill stands about 300 feet tall. Each



Royce Smith drives an escort truck behind the wind tower sections. His wife, June, wants to be a driver, too.

comparison, the Statue of Liberty is 305 feet. A news release from the project says it will produce 63 MW—enough power for more than 12,000 Texas homes annually. However, it's important to note that the intermittent nature of wind power means it can't get the job done alone. It has to be supplemented by a steady source of elec-

tricity. Tower sections and blades for the Scurry County Wind Farm lie in nearby fields as other cranes prepare to erect the equivalent of 30-story structures. "It's a great day for flying steel," said one of my guides. That's wind construction



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These days, a convoy of wind turbine parts is a common sight in West Texas.

blade reaches about 145 feet. And when the wind is blowing, the hub (nose cone) can revolve about 21 times per minute. Typically, the turbines automatically shut off when the wind blows above 45 miles per hour.

“Outside the house, I can hear the wind swishing when the blades are turning. But I can’t when I’m inside,” Williams said. “You better appreciate the sound when you know you’re getting an income from it.”

It took seven years to get the turbines up and running and the quarterly wind royalties churning. (See our accompanying story, “Winds of Change” on page 6, for details of property leasing.)

“The wind projects put a little money in circulation,” said Williams with a touch of West Texas understatement. “They add a lot to the property tax base, particularly for local public schools.”

Cliff Everett of Roscoe, who has wind turbines on his property, was a little more enthusiastic when he recently told National Public Radio, “Who would have thought we could sell something we don’t even own!”

### Working for the Wind

THE ELECTRIC RELIABILITY COUNCIL OF Texas (ERCOT) grid, which covers about 85 percent of Texas, currently has a guaranteed transmission capacity for only about 3,400 MW of power at any one time from low-population West Texas to the high-population cen-

ters of the state, according to Bob Kahn, ERCOT’s president and CEO. Online wind farms have a capacity to produce 5,000 MW. Many more transmission lines must be built, providing even more construction jobs.

Jobs of all kinds are available. Take, for example, 87-year-old Royce Smith, a member of Coleman County Electric Cooperative, who has gotten into the act driving an escort truck behind the steel tower sections of wind turbines. “I love traveling. I’ve enjoyed every minute of it,” says Smith, who had to qualify for a commercial driver’s license and take out \$1 million of liability insurance. His wife wants to join the escort business when she retires. “I bought her a pickup for Christmas and got it rigged up with emergency lights,” Smith said.

The city of Coleman, headquarters of the co-op, is home to several fabricating companies including the Wind Clean Corporation, which employs 130 people. Wind Clean provides coating systems for the steel sections that make up a wind tower. It also assembles internal components. Across the state, other fabrication companies are making parts for the industry, creating at least a temporary surge in construction jobs.

### Co-op Involvement

FREDDA BUCKNER, GENERAL MANAGER OF Big Country Electric Cooperative based in Roby, said she began getting calls from wind farm developers in her area

about four years ago.

How many are in Big Country territory now? She ticked off Snyder Wind Farm, Lone Star Wind Farm, Post Wind Farm, Scurry County Wind Farm, Scurry County No. 2 Wind Farm, Brazos Wind Farm, plus Hackberry Wind Farm, Pyron Wind Farm and Inadale Wind Farm under construction—all of them signed up for Big Country electric service.

Transmitting the wind energy to where it is most in demand will cause great technical challenges, but as Buckner said, “The business is so good for the area, I can’t say anything bad about it.”

At this juncture, nearby distribution co-ops are not receiving wind-generated electricity from the farms in their own backyards. However, Bob Bryant, general manager of the Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, a generation and transmission co-op based in Amarillo, says the company plans to bulk purchase at least some wind power for its members in the future.

Electricity from most of the new wind farms is destined for Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio/Austin. West Texas remains transmission constrained. We’ll explain what that means in a story about the Texas power grids in August.

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*Kaye Northcott is editor of Texas Co-op Power.*



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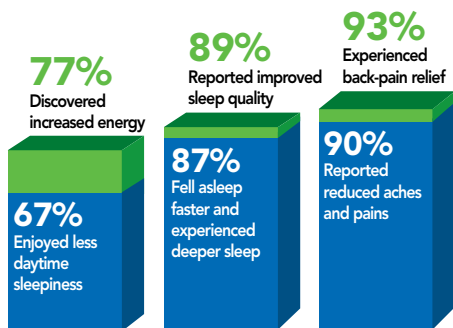
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## Cool It with the A/C

*Tips To Help Your Air Conditioner Take a Load Off*



**One of the best ways to save energy and extend the life of your air-conditioning system is to have it serviced annually by a qualified professional.**

**Y**our air conditioner has to work harder every time the temperature rises 1 degree. Make sure it's up to the task.

Every spring, hire a licensed professional to give it a tune-up. If your unit is old or requires some major repairs, it could be cheaper to replace it with a super-efficient model—one with a SEER rating of at least 12—than to repair it.

SEER stands for “seasonal energy efficiency ratio.” The higher the number, the more efficient the air conditioner—and the more money you save.

Relieve some strain on your air conditioner and knock a few dollars off your energy bill this summer. Here's how:

- Change the air filter every time you pay your energy bill. The unit doesn't have to work as hard to push air through a clean filter as it does through a dirty one.
- Turn up the thermostat and turn on ceiling fans. Ceiling fans circulate the air and help you feel cooler. For every degree you raise your thermostat, you will save 2 to 3 percent on air conditioning.
- Weatherstripping and caulking around doors and windows isn't just

for winter. It can keep hot air from coming into your home during the summer, too. Seal leaky joints and seams around windows and doors to keep cool air in and hot air out.

- Draw blinds or shades during the day. If your windows don't have reflective coatings, add window film to keep the sun's heat from seeping in.
- Cook and operate washing machines, dishwashers and other heat-generating appliances after 9 p.m. Using appliances during these “off-peak” hours can save you money and reduce indoor heat when the sun is blazing.
- Don't use your oven when the weather is hot. Nothing is more energy efficient for cooking than your microwave. It uses two-thirds less energy than your stove.
- Install patio covers, awnings and solar window screens to shade your home from the sun. For additional future savings, use strategically planted trees, shrubs and vines to shade your home.
- Consider changing your old thermostat to a programmable one. You can save up to \$100 a year by properly using a set-back thermostat.

## GIVE GRADS SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY

**L**ooking for a unique gift for a graduate heading off to college in the fall? Encourage electrical safety, even away from home.

Help the college students in your life avoid electrical and cooking fires by sending them off with electronics that bear a label from a reputable consumer product testing facility, like Underwriters Laboratories.

Nearly three-quarters of dormitory fires result from cooking accidents, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Consider these gift ideas for safer dorm living:

- With computers, stereos and MP3 players, your grad will head to college next fall with more electronics than outlets. A power strip is a college must. Buy one with an over-current protector, which will shut off if the strip is drawing too much current.



**A power strip with over-current protection can help prevent fires.**

- Instead of an electric hot plate, give a microwave for easy dorm cooking. These energy-efficient appliances pose less of a fire hazard.
- Candles are a quick way to make a dorm look like home, but they cause so many dorm fires that many colleges ban them. Give an electric candle instead.
- Coffeemakers are a luxury in the dorm room. Give one with an automatic shutoff so the student never has to worry about leaving the burner on.



# Want To Save Energy? Save Water

The water company uses electricity to purify water and pump it through your pipes. You use electricity to heat water for showering, washing dishes and doing laundry.

You can save energy—and your energy dollars—by conserving water at home.

**STEP 1:** Buy water-saving, low-flow toilets and showerheads when it's time to replace your old ones. Look for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense label on products that meet EPA performance and efficiency standards. These typically save at least 20 percent more water than comparable products.

**STEP 2:** Don't do laundry until you have a full load of clothes. Even smaller cycles waste energy and water compared with full, large loads.

**STEP 3:** Run the dishwasher only when it's full. Keep a bowl of soapy water in the sink for quick dishwashing.

**STEP 4:** Repair dripping or leaky faucets immediately. Even a very slow leak wastes a lot of water. And if it's water you've paid to heat, even more money is going down the drain.

**STEP 5:** Rig your lawn sprinkler with a timer and cut the length of watering after it rains or the weather cools.



**STEP 6:** Find out how much water each plant in your garden needs. Over-watering certain types of plants can kill them.

**STEP 7:** Sweep your driveway instead of hosing it down.

**STEP 8:** If you have a pool, invest in a swimming pool cover. It will keep heat in your pool and prevent water evaporation.

## SAFE GARDENING TIPS

Trimming trees and tall bushes can take a deadly turn when electricity is involved. Never trim a tree that has grown into a power line. Both metal and wood can transmit electricity into your body if you come into contact with a live wire.

Instead, ask your electric cooperative to send a professional to trim the tree or at least to turn off power to the line while you work.

Don't remove those trees, though. If they're growing near east-, west- and south-facing windows, they can help block the sun's hot rays in the summertime. Deciduous trees are best because they shade your home from the summer sun, but then they lose their leaves in winter to let in the extra heat when you need it.

Here are more tips to help keep your gardening chores safe:

- Before you begin digging or landscaping, ask your energy cooperative to check for underground utility lines.

- Never trim trees, cut the lawn or garden in bad weather. Wet and windy conditions can cause slipping. Go inside immediately if you see lightning.

- Plug cords for electric tools and trimmers into outlets protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters. Never use tools outdoors when it's wet.

- Work in pairs so you're not using electrical equipment when nobody else is around in case of an accident. And hire a professional if you doubt your ability to safely complete the job.



If there are power lines near your trees, leave trimming to the experts.

## COPPER THEFT CAN BE DEADLY

Stealing copper from an electric cooperative or other utility is dangerous and is a crime. It also can carry very dangerous consequences, including serious injury, death, explosions, fires and electric outages.

Warning signs are posted around electric substations because of the high voltages that can cause immediate harm, including death, to untrained personnel. This is one reason entry to substations is restricted. Unauthorized entry into a substation is a crime—as is stealing materials from the substation. Never enter a substation, and do not touch any electrical equipment, power lines or anything that may be touching a power line.

If you spot suspicious activities near a substation or power lines, please contact your electric cooperative or local law enforcement agency immediately.

# The House at 210

*'It was a place  
of ordinary  
enchantment.'*

BY JOHN DAVIDSON

The house was big and white and so absolutely plain it looked like an old farmhouse standing in the middle of Austin. As I walked up the front steps the first time, I didn't imagine I was going to live there most of my adult life. I was starting my senior year in college, stopping by to see my cousin Judy and her husband and son, all of whom had just come back from two years in the Middle East.

At first, I didn't understand why they were so thrilled with the house. I didn't appreciate 10-foot ceilings or longleaf pine floors. But I saw how happy they were, and before I knew what was happening, Judy was on the phone, asking the landlady if I could talk to her about renting the upstairs.

Miss Trice, as she listed herself in the telephone directory, lived a block away. Oleanders hung over the gray stucco wall in front of her house, an iron gate opened into what felt like a tunnel, then a flight of stairs led up to a garden. When she came to the door, she looked like a witch with straggly hair, a beak nose, a sharp chin, snaggletoothed, and darting beady eyes. Her voice was raspy, and how she talked over the years! She'd taught English literature at the University of Texas where she had known anyone of consequence. An intimate of Harry Ransom, the founder of the Ransom Collection, she knew all the scandals and where all the skeletons were buried at UT. With the cicadas buzzing in the live oaks, making that hot slumbering sound, she went off on one tangent, then another. Listening to her was a bit like watching a dog hunt, making larger and larger loops in the grass, searching for the scent of a trail. Finally, remembering her point of departure, she gave me the key to 210.

When I opened the door, the staircase smelled musty, and, as I went up, the heat became stifling. The rooms, dark and shadowy, were furnished like stage sets. It felt claustrophobic until I raised one of the window shades and looked out at Hemphill Park across the street, two bands of green grass and trees flowing along the upper course of Waller Creek.

Months later, looking out those windows, I realized I wanted to stay there. An Oriental rug glowed in the afternoon sun, and the treetops beyond the park made a black frieze against the winter sky. With a war looming and young men my age coming home in body bags, everything about those months was precious—waking up at night to hear the hiss of sprinklers in the park, the way the old house would



shake in the wind, the green shade of the sycamore tree.

Dealing with the draft and graduate school, I came and went for several years, sharing the house with friends. For a while, 210 filled up with bird-watchers; at another point, it became a haven for writers and editors. When I was 27, I took sole possession of the upstairs and arranged for a good friend, Suzanne, to move in downstairs. We shared friends and books, food and drink. We had Thanksgiving feasts in the backyard, autumn leaves falling onto dinner tables. We filled the upstairs with so many people dancing that the house would shake.

Miss Trice didn't believe in selling property. Nor did she raise the rent or make improvements. The house became shabbily genteel. The sycamore tree out front grew bigger and bigger. Suzanne married and moved out of state, and Miss Trice died, giving me right of first refusal in her will.

My first mortgage payment was exactly 10 times my last rent check, but how could I refuse? The first plumber's bill was \$8,000. During one chaotic phase of leveling and painting, I took to walking out into the backyard at night to look at the windows of my bedroom. In the dark, I couldn't see what needed to be done, just the yellow glow of lamplight.

Extraordinary things are often accomplished by making the same decision over and over—to practice the piano, to put on your running shoes, to sit down at your desk. And sometimes, very ordinary things, like staying in one place, become extraordinary. Living at 210 so long, the memories were so numerous and the associations so dense, that I began to feel as if I had swum out in very deep water. I couldn't revisit the past. I lived in it. I had slept under the same roof so long I occasionally woke thinking I was in my childhood home.

Is it too obvious to think that the windows we look through every day frame our point of view? Perhaps mine was an ordinary experience, or perhaps my perception of time was altered. The thought of moving was unnerving, but the only way to know was to step away.

After the closing, I came home to take a nap in my favorite room, a corner bedroom so small it was all windows filled with the sycamore. Watching the green leaves sway, I remembered being in love in that room, white curtains billowing around us as if we were floating in a big nightgown.

After the movers unloaded our belongings at our new house, I went back alone to drop a set of keys in the mailbox. Twilight was settling. Fireflies hovered over the grass in the park. Frogs and crickets were beginning to sing in the creek. As I walked back down the steps, I knew it was a place of ordinary enchantment.

---

*John Davidson lives in Austin and has been writing about Texas for 30 years.*



SAN ANGELO

# Painted Windows in Time

*Magical murals  
mix research and  
paint as viewers  
brush up against  
past and present.*

By Camille Wheeler



San Angelo's historic murals cast a magical spell over those who view them. Want to see for yourself? Stand in the parking lot at South Chadbourne Street and West Concho Avenue. Face north and close your eyes for a few seconds. Now open them.

In the blink of an eye, it's 1908. Horse-drawn buggies roll down the 200 block of South Chadbourne. A man exits the Star Saloon, pushing open the swinging doors. People stroll past sidewalk signs advertising soda for 5 cents and blue material for 10 cents a yard. A sign at the Arc Light Saloon advertises beer, whiskey and dancing girls and admonishes patrons to check their firearms at the door.

A collision between a trolley car and vehicle draws a small crowd as local photographer McArthur C. Ragsdale, owner of the Ragsdale Building (since destroyed to make room for the parking lot), documents the accident.

The entire scene looks so real—and so big in this 20-by-85-foot mural painted on the wall of what is now a florist shop—that it almost seems possible to drive into the picture and cruise on down South Chadbourne Street, waving at people who lived here a century ago.

Mural artist Crystal Kedziora Goodman, who under the canopy of Historic Murals of San Angelo has painted three downtown wall murals over the past six years, said that's the idea: Mix buckets of well-researched facts and no-peel paint, brushstroke in the most precise of details and watch people connect the present with a not-so-distant past.

On a chilly November afternoon, Goodman crawled down from her scaffolding on North Chadbourne Street, where under a separate city program she was painting a new façade on an old building to help restore its original look. Goodman said she loves to see people look in the murals' mirrors to see yesterday.

"That's not that long ago that we had the horse and the buggy and the trolley car and the men dressed in nothing but suits," said Goodman, wearing white paint-stained pants and a sweatshirt bearing the Historic Murals slogan: "Our past has us up against the walls."

Goodman continued, "When people drive down the street, it helps them remember this was just 100 years ago. That's a drop in the bucket. I would love to live another 100 years to see how much it's going to change from what it is right now. I can't imagine."

But thanks to Historic Murals—a nonprofit organization founded by Executive Director Susan Morris that meticulously researches all historical facts through the West Texas Collection at Angelo State University—people don't have to imagine: They can see what the past looked like, down to the rattlesnake, tarantula and horned lizard standing guard as the six-horse Butterfield Stagecoach rolls by in the early public transportation mural.

"We don't do anything we can't substantiate," Morris said, explaining that a big





part of the process is poring through old photos.

Goodman's work on the 1908 mural, completed in 2005, also drew from a Sanborn fire insurance map, which showed where businesses were located, and San Angelo's first city directory, printed in 1908. And she painted in the trolley-car crash because it really happened.

But even with all the research, magic sometimes plays a role.

To wit, the blacksmith mural on South Oakes Street, the organization's second mural, completed in 2003, brought an unexpected visitor while Goodman worked.

Almost every day, a man would sit on a bench across the street, silently watching as Goodman painted Frank Vogel, one of the city's former blacksmiths, at work. Goodman added a blond-haired boy, a dog, a horse and a tree.

Before the mural was finished, Morris received a letter from Goodman's mysterious onlooker, Bert Morgan (now 89), who said the mural bore an uncanny resemblance to his youth: Morgan, whose father owned a blacksmith shop across the street from where the mural was being painted, said he was once a blond-haired boy with a dog and that horses were often around. A big oak tree sheltered the blacksmith equipment.

Morgan remembered very specific details about his young life. For instance, he said he often had bloody toes from going barefoot. He wrote: "As I gazed at the painting a strange feeling came over me. I had a compelling urge to walk through the old weather-beaten door in the blacksmith shop and, like Alice through the looking glass, step 80 years back in time to my youth."

After a teary-eyed Goodman read the letter, she changed one thing in the mural: She repainted the boy with bare feet.

It's that painstaking attention to detail—even trash receptacles are being painted to complement the murals—that makes San Angelo's murals seem larger than life. In the city's first mural, a four-panel work completed in 2002 at South Chadbourne Street and West Avenue C, Goodman depicted the now-gone Santa Fe Depot—a gorgeous structure with Spanish architecture and handmade tiles.

The rest of the mural, which honors San Angelo's early modes of transportation from 1840 through 1930, depicts the arrival of covered wagons; Locomotive 503, called the Iron Horse; and Cromwell Airlines, the first passenger plane service in San Angelo.

Meanwhile, Goodman paints in one special detail just for children: mice that are hidden in the murals.

Goodman said that years ago, when she was making ends meet by painting murals on children's bedroom walls, she might have heard: "I want a big tree and I want seven apples and I want three pink flowers and I want green grass and I want a cow."

Adults want something more evocative in a mural, a sense of time and place that spurs the imagination. "You'll never look at a blank wall the same way again," said Morris, who's overseeing another downtown project in which murals are painted on canvasses and hung in storefront windows. "You'll envision what kind of mural can go on it."

For more information, go to [www.historicmuralsofsanangelo.org](http://www.historicmuralsofsanangelo.org).

After the initial research process, Crystal Kedziora Goodman draws a grid—each square is 1 foot—to help her lay out the mural. Her scaffolding is only 8 feet wide, so she has to grid, measure and find her marks as she goes. Her mantra? 'Measure twice, paint once.'

*Camille Wheeler is staff writer for Texas Co-op Power.*

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# The Rise of a Bread-Baking Empire

BY JUDY ALTER

In 1908, Ninia “Ninnie” Baird began selling the bread she baked on a wood stove in her kitchen. She built her business into Mrs Baird’s Bakeries, the largest independent, family-owned bakery in the United States, with 11 plants and more than 2,500 employees.

Ninnie and William Baird brought their family to Fort Worth in 1901. William, a restaurateur, sold popcorn from the city’s first steam popcorn machine, a bright red contraption with brass fittings and a steam whistle. He bought a second machine, and son Dewey, then 8, ran it. William subsequently returned to the restaurant business, buying run-down restaurants and fixing them up. Ninnie supplied bread and pastries.

When William was diagnosed with diabetes and could no longer run the restaurants, Ninnie began to sell fresh bread from her home to support the family. Her four sons helped with the baking and delivered their goods to customers. The girls took care of the small children and kept the house running. William died in 1911, but the baking business kept growing. In 1915, the family bought a commercial oven from the Metropolitan Hotel for \$25 and credit for bread. They built a wooden building in the backyard for the oven, and the baking moved out of the home kitchen. Now they could bake an impressive 40 loaves a day.

At first, the boys delivered baked goods on their bicycles. But with increased business, they converted the family buggy into a sales wagon and hitched up their horse. The family did little bookkeeping. If there was money at the end of the month, they had made a profit. In 1917, the Bairds bought a car, converted it into a truck, and painted the slogan “Eat More Mrs Baird’s Bread” on it. (There is never a period after Mrs in the company name.)

The Bairds began to provide bread to wholesale accounts—principally a grocery chain. In 1918, they gave up retail to concentrate on wholesale customers. To keep up with demand, they moved into a larger building where they could bake 400 loaves at a time. Business kept growing, and a second plant opened in Dallas in 1928.

Daughter Bess, a cashier, recalled that during the Depression there was probably a million dollars in the vault, because they couldn’t put the money in a bank. “Different grocery stores around town would come to the bakery to get money—we became sort of an unofficial bank.” But business fell, and so did salaries. By 1938, however, Mrs Baird’s was once again expanding—a new bakery in Fort Worth and one in Houston.

The Fort Worth bakery quickly became a local landmark.

Plate glass windows allowed passersby to watch the baking process, including the hand-twisting for which Mrs Baird’s bread is famous. The smell of baking bread drifted outside, and the bakery once won an award for the best aroma in Fort Worth. The business weathered World War II without sacrificing quality. “Quality, Freshness, Service” was the slogan.

By the 1950s, Ninnie Baird’s health began to decline, and her boys took over more and more of the business. But she remained chairwoman of the board, kept an office at the Fort Worth plant and retained a controlling interest in the company. Every time the “boys” wanted to open a new plant, they had to convince their mother that they could do it successfully.

Ninnie Baird died in 1961. By then, her grandchildren were involved in the bakeries. They had grown up in the bread business—and with the strong work ethic Ninnie Baird stressed. Family businesses were common when Mrs Baird’s Bakeries began, but by the 1970s, it was the only family-run wholesale bakery in Fort Worth. By the 1990s, the company had 11 plants throughout Texas.

Today Mrs Baird’s Bakeries is a division of Bimbo Bakeries USA, a subsidiary of Mexico’s Grupo Industrial Bimbo, one of the largest baking companies in the world. The Baird family continues to serve the community through the Ninnie L. Baird Foundation, which is dedicated to improving the quality of life for children and families.

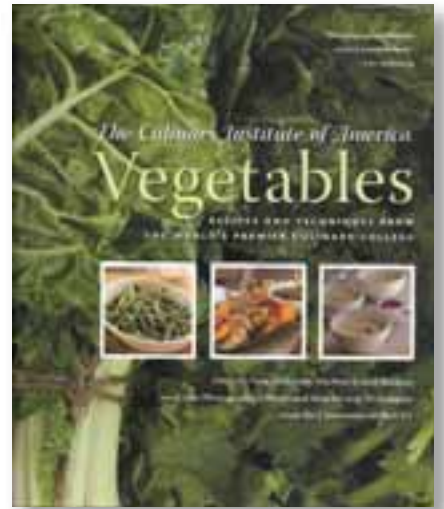
*Judy Alter wrote about  
Henrietta King in the  
January 2008  
Texas Co-op  
Power.*



# Farmers' Bounty

**BY SHANNON OELRICH** In warmer months when our local farmers' market is open, I love browsing the selections for what's plump and fresh. If you start with the best produce, you don't have to do much to make the meal you prepare with it stand out. I'm especially crazy for fresh black-eyed peas and those wonderful heirloom tomatoes that put the grocery store's offerings to shame. (Green zebra, brandywine and yellow pear are my favorites.) If you're a gardener with a plot in the yard, this is the time of year you start to feel downright wealthy.

The Culinary Institute of America, the venerable cooking school that has been turning out chefs for more than 60 years, recently published a cookbook simply called *Vegetables*. The more than 170 recipes in the book highlight preparations for fresh vegetables from soup to pickling. In an extensive "Vegetables 101" section, you can learn about selecting the best vegetables (eggplants should have firm, glossy skin and unwilted leaves), storing fresh produce (yellow squash should be kept in the refrigerator for four to five days) and special techniques for vegetable cookery. Here is a fantastic recipe from the book.



## CHILLED ASPARAGUS WITH MUSTARD HERB VINAIGRETTE

- 2 pounds asparagus
- 2 tablespoons white wine or cider vinegar
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon chopped flat leaf parsley
- ½ teaspoon chopped tarragon leaves
- Salt and pepper as needed
- Dash onion powder
- Dash garlic powder
- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil

Bring a large pot of salted water to a rolling boil.

Trim the asparagus to remove the white, fibrous ends. Cut the asparagus into 2-inch pieces on the diagonal.

Add the asparagus to the boiling water and cook until the spears are bright green and just tender, 4-5 minutes. (If necessary, cook the asparagus in batches.) Drain the asparagus in a colander and rinse with cold water until the asparagus is chilled. The asparagus is ready to dress and serve now, or it can be held in a covered container in the refrigerator for up to 6 hours.

To make the vinaigrette, whisk together the vinegar, mustard, parsley, tarragon, salt, pepper, onion powder and garlic powder until blended. Add the oil to the vinegar mixture in a thin stream, whisking constantly. Season with additional salt and pepper, if needed.

Toss the chilled asparagus with the vinaigrette or pass it separately on the side. Serve immediately on a chilled platter or plates.

Makes 8 servings.





**1<sup>st</sup>** **SHEENA HURTA** *Sam Houston Electric Cooperative*  
 Prize-winning recipe: **Turnip Greens Casserole**

I'll bet you're as surprised as I was to see a turnip greens casserole coming in at No. 1. However, I urge you to try this simple dish, which showcases all parts of a turnip. The only additions are butter, salt and pepper, but in this case, the whole is more than the sum of its parts. Serve as a side with meatloaf or a Sunday ham. It's an easy way to get your vegetables and starch in one shot.

## TURNIP GREENS CASSEROLE

- 1 large bag (1 pound) turnip greens
- 10 turnips
- 3 tablespoons butter, divided
- Salt and pepper

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Wash greens and turnips thoroughly. Chop greens, put in pot and add water just to cover. Peel turnips and chop in large chunks. Place turnip chunks in different pot and add water just to cover. Add 2 teaspoons salt and 1 teaspoon pepper to each pot. Bring both to rapid boil, then lower to simmer until tender, about 20 minutes.

Strain greens and press out water. Place at bottom of small casserole dish. Taste and adjust seasoning as needed. Strain turnips well, mash with 2 tablespoons butter. Taste and adjust seasoning as needed.

Spread mashed turnips over greens and dot with 1 tablespoon butter. Put in oven, uncovered, until lightly browned, 20-30 minutes. Serve hot. Serves 6.

Serving size: 1 large serving spoonful. Per serving: 123 calories, 2.8 g protein, 5.6 g fat, 16.5 g carbohydrates, 242 mg sodium, 15 mg cholesterol

## EGGPLANT AND ZUCCHINI

- 1 medium eggplant, chopped
- 6 medium zucchini, chopped
- 2 slices bacon, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 cup rosé wine
- 1/3 cup dry bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In saucepan, boil eggplant and zucchini in salted water until tender-crisp, about 10 minutes. Drain and set aside.

In skillet, fry bacon until lightly browned. Add onion and garlic and

sauté for 15 minutes. Put bacon mixture and vegetables in buttered, 3-quart baking dish. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Bake 40 minutes. Serve warm. Serves 10.

Serving size: 1 cup. Per serving: 83 calories, 4.4 g protein, 2 g fat, 11 g carbohydrates, 243 mg sodium, 4 mg cholesterol

**JOHN AND SHARI RUDY**  
*Pedernales Electric Cooperative*



## ROASTED TOMATOES AND FARFALLE

- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 cups fresh Italian bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup fresh oregano, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh basil, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 2 pounds ripe red tomatoes
- 1 pound farfalle (bowtie pasta)
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In large bowl, mash garlic, add bread crumbs



**Cook's Tip:** If you're lucky enough to have fresh turnips for the Turnip Casserole Recipe, use 10 turnips and the tops from them rather than the loose turnips and separate bag of greens that you'd get from the grocery store.

and toss. Add oregano, basil and 1/2 cup of olive oil and toss again.

Cut tomatoes in half lengthwise, then seed and core them. Drizzle 1 tablespoon olive oil over the bottom of a heavy casserole dish, then place tomatoes in it, cut side up. Spoon bread crumb mixture into the tomatoes, sprinkle with salt and pepper and drizzle 1 tablespoon oil over top. Bake for 1 hour.

When tomatoes have baked 40 minutes, bring pot of salted water on stove to boil for pasta. When tomatoes have finished roasting, remove from oven and allow to cool. Cook pasta until al dente, then drain. Chop tomatoes while in casserole. Transfer pasta to casserole, then mix tomatoes and pasta well. Serve immediately with Parmesan to taste. Serves 6.

Serving size: 1 cup. Per serving: 533 calories, 12.7 g protein, 21.3 g fat, 71.7 g carbohydrates, 114 mg sodium, trace cholesterol

**JUANITA GARCIA**  
*Pedernales Electric Cooperative*

## RECIPE CONTEST

**October is the height of pecan season. The versatile nut is good for more than just pie—it can be featured in each course, from salad to dessert. Send us your recipes featuring Texas' official health nut. The deadline is JUNE 10.**

Send recipes to Home Cooking, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704. You may also fax them to (512) 486-6254, e-mail them to [recipes@texas-ec.org](mailto:recipes@texas-ec.org), or submit online at [www.texascoopower.com](http://www.texascoopower.com). Please include your name, address and phone number, as well as the name of your electric co-op. The deadline is June 10. The top winner will receive a copy of *60 Years of Home Cooking* and a Texas-shaped trivet. Runners-up will also receive a prize.

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- Respect the marks and dig with care



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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-co.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.texascooppower.com](http://www.texascooppower.com) or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the address above.

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▲ **Joy Beard**, a Taylor Electric Cooperative member, submitted this photograph in which branches stretch like fingers in front of the Shackleford County courthouse in Albany, which was built in 1883.

▼ Flapping U.S. and Texas flags seem to salute the Hopkins County courthouse in Sulphur Springs that was built in 1894. Farmers Electric Cooperative member **Carol Rose Allen** sent us this photo.

## COURTHOUSES

Entries for this month's contest—coming from counties across this vast state—were as diverse as the courthouses that anchor our Texas towns. These magnificent buildings inspire us all with their unique architecture and deep, rich histories that make us proud to be Texans. According to the Texas Historical Commission, Texas has more historic courthouses than any other state. More than 234 courthouses still stand that are at least 50 years old, and about 80 were built before the turn of the 20th century.

—CAMILLE WHEELER



◀ **Susan Soros** of Navarro County Electric Cooperative submitted this photograph of the majestic clock tower atop the Ellis County courthouse in Waxahachie, which was completed in 1897.



▲ Early March snow blankets the Denton County courthouse, which was built in 1896. **Jessica Rivers**, the daughter of **Tim** and **Brenda Rivers** of Bartlett Electric Cooperative, took this wintry picture.



▲ **Carol Serur** snapped this photograph of the Hays County courthouse in San Marcos. Serur, a Pedernales Electric Cooperative member, calls the photo "Pillars of Strength." The courthouse was built in 1908.

### Upcoming in Focus on Texas

ISSUE	SUBJECT	DEADLINE
Aug	Country Roads	Jun 10
Sep	Perfect Pets	Jul 10
Oct	Old Houses	Aug 10
Nov	Signs	Sep 10
Dec	Costumes	Oct 10
Jan	Odd Farm Equipment	Nov 10

**COUNTRY ROADS** is the topic for our **AUGUST 2008** issue. Send your photo—along with your name, address, daytime phone, co-op affiliation and a brief description—to **Country Roads, Focus on Texas, 2550 S. IH-35, Austin, TX 78704**, before **June 10**. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must be included if you want your entry returned (approximately six weeks). Please do not submit irreplaceable photographs—send a copy or duplicate. We regret that *Texas Co-op Power* cannot be responsible for photos that are lost in the mail or not received by the deadline. 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](mailto:focus@texas-ec.org), or submit them on our website at [www.texascoopower.com](http://www.texascoopower.com).



# AROUND TEXAS AROUND TEXAS

## JUNE

- 01 KERRVILLE** [1-8]  
Folk Festival,  
(830) 257-3600,  
[www.kerrvillefolkfestival.com](http://www.kerrvillefolkfestival.com)
- 05 SHERMAN** [5-7]  
Bluegrass Festival,  
(903) 546-6893,  
[www.chrysalopryhouse.com](http://www.chrysalopryhouse.com)
- 06 BUCKHOLTS** [6-7]  
Cotton Festival,  
(281) 732-1614
- ARANSAS PASS** [6-8]  
Shrimporee,  
1-800-633-3028,  
[www.aransaspas.org](http://www.aransaspas.org)
- LONGVIEW** [6-8]  
AlleyFest,  
(903) 237-4000,  
[www.alleyfest.org](http://www.alleyfest.org)
- QUITAQUE** [6-8]  
PaWa Trade Days,  
(806) 269-1578

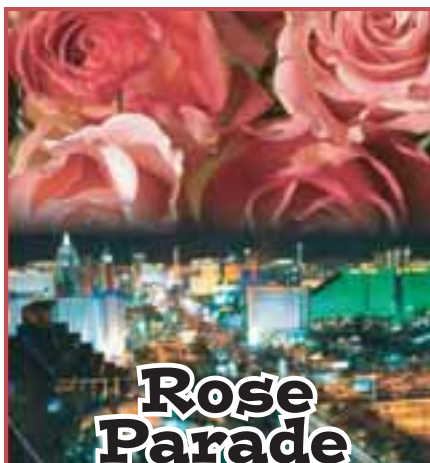
- 07 BOERNE**  
Adventure Fest,  
(830) 249-7277
- PEARL**  
Bluegrass Concert,  
(254) 865-6013,  
[www.pearlbluegrass.com](http://www.pearlbluegrass.com)
- DALE** [7-8, 14-15, 21-22]  
Central Texas Renaissance  
Faire, (210) 823-5004



**DALE** Central Texas Renaissance Faire

- 12 LOCKHART** [12-15]  
Chisholm Trail Roundup,  
(512) 398-2818,  
[www.lockhartchamber.com](http://www.lockhartchamber.com)
- 13 CROCKETT** [13-14]  
Fiddler's Festival,  
(936) 544-2359,  
[www.crockettarea-chamber.org](http://www.crockettarea-chamber.org)
- CROSS PLAINS** [13-14]  
Robert E. Howard Days,  
(254) 725-4993
- FREDERICKSBURG** [13-14]  
Hill Country Antique  
Tractor & Engine Club  
Show, (830) 997-3012,  
[www.rustyiron.org](http://www.rustyiron.org)
- SAN ANGELO** [13-15]  
Festival on the Concho,  
(325) 655-9866,  
[www.sajuniorleague.com](http://www.sajuniorleague.com)
- 14 EAST BERNARD**  
Czech Kolache Klobase  
Festival, (979) 335-7907,  
[www.kkfest.com](http://www.kkfest.com)

- 14 GAINESVILLE**  
Moss Lake Red Neck  
Olympics, (940) 612-2377
- HEREFORD**  
Dairy Day,  
(806) 578-4788,  
[www.hereforddairy-women.com](http://www.hereforddairy-women.com)
- HUNTSVILLE**  
Juneteenth Celebration,  
(936) 291-1626
- JACKSONVILLE**  
Tomato Festival,  
1-800-376-2217,  
[www.jacksonvilletexas.com](http://www.jacksonvilletexas.com)
- NACOGDOCHES**  
Texas Blueberry Festival,  
(936) 560-5533,  
[www.texasblueberry-festival.com](http://www.texasblueberry-festival.com)
- SULPHUR SPRINGS**  
Quilt Walk/Dairy Festival  
Parade, (903) 994-2570



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**14 UHLAND**  
B-B-Q & Car Show,  
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www.st-johnsucc.net

**BLANCO** [14-15]  
Lavender Festival,  
(830) 833-5101,  
www.blancolavender  
festival.com

**19 PORT ARTHUR**  
Juneteenth Celebration,  
(409) 982-8040

**20 BRENHAM** [20-21]  
150th Anniversary,  
(979) 337-7380,  
www.brenhamtexas.com

**LINDEN** [20-21]  
T-Bone Walker Blues Fest,  
(903) 756-7774,  
www.tbnewalkerblues  
fest.com

**STONEWALL** [20-21]  
Peach JAMboree,  
(830) 644-2735,  
www.stonewalltexas.com

**20 SAN SABA** [20-21]  
Rodeo, (325) 372-8291

**WAXAHACHIE** [20-22]  
Summer Balloon Classic,  
(469) 644-4576

**21 COLEMAN**  
Sesquicentennial Quilt  
Show, (325) 624-2142

**CANYON LAKE**  
Turn Back the Clock Day,  
(830) 899-4542,  
www.heritage-museum  
.info

**22 KENDALIA**  
Homecoming Barbecue &  
Auction, (830) 336-2403

**MENARD**  
Critter Shack of Menard,  
(325) 315-6149, www.  
crittershack.petfinder.com

**24 ELGIN** [24-28]  
Western Days,  
(512) 285-4515,  
www.elgintxchamber.com



**27 CELINA** Balloon Festival

**27 LITTLEFIELD** [27-28]  
Lamb County Centennial  
Celebration,  
(806) 385-9001

**CELINA** [27-28]  
Balloon Festival,  
(972) 382-3600

**28 BURNET** [28-29]  
Texas Hill Country Railfair  
& Festival,  
(512) 477-8468,  
www.austinsteamtrain.org

**MORTON** [28-29]  
Frontier Heritage  
Celebration,  
(806) 266-5484

## JULY

**03 CALDWELL**  
Celebration & Fireworks,  
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**04 NACOGDOCHES**  
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**LEANDER**  
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Events are listed according  
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Event information can be mailed  
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Prototype  
Revolving  
Pocket Pistol, 1835

Comblain  
Pepperbox, 1855

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## CORPUS CHRISTI

All right, y'all, we might as well start big—and it doesn't get much bigger than the **TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM**, where thousands of creatures representing more than 280 species live.

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After a day by the bay, relax with dinner and a movie at the **INDIE THEATER**. Enjoy a four-course meal in an intimate setting where white tablecloths and candles set the mood and a film accom-

# CORPUS CHRISTI to KING RANCH

*Savor this delicious drive along the South Texas coast.*

**BY CAMILLE WHEELER**



panies your meal. Finally, if it's swank lodging that you want, try the **V BOUTIQUE HOTEL**, which is housed in an 81-year-old building. The building is perhaps most famous for the defunct Dragon Grill, an upscale and illegal gambling establishment that operated there in the 1940s.

**Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce**, (361) 881-1800, [www.corpuschristichamber.org](http://www.corpuschristichamber.org)

**Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau**, 1-800-678-6232, [www.corpuschristicvb.com](http://www.corpuschristicvb.com)

**Texas State Aquarium**, (361) 881-1200 or 1-800-477-GULF (4853), [www.texasstateaquarium.org](http://www.texasstateaquarium.org)

## KINGSVILLE

It ought to be illegal to drive from Corpus Christi to Kingsville without stopping at **JOE COTTEN'S BARBECUE** in Robstown. The restaurant right off U.S. 77 serves up brisket so tender you won't need a knife. The all-male waitstaff

sports short red jackets and black bow ties and keeps the iced tea mugs filled to the brim.

Now, stuffed once again, head on to Kingsville, named for King Ranch founder Richard King. A great first stop is the **KING RANCH SADDLE SHOP**, where visitors can watch saddles being made or repaired. Then there's the shopping: The inventory features clothing, furniture, jewelry and pottery plus more.

There's even an old-fashioned, coin-operated horse for the kids. The next logical stop is the **KING RANCH MUSEUM**, where Toni Frissell's award-winning photographic essay of the King Ranch (1939 to 1944) fills the walls.

**Kingsville Chamber of Commerce**, (361) 592-6438, [www.kingsville.org](http://www.kingsville.org)  
**Kingsville Convention and Visitors Bureau**, (361) 592-8516 or 1-800-333-5032, [www.kingsvilletexas.com](http://www.kingsvilletexas.com)  
**King Ranch Museum**, (361) 592-0408

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**King Ranch Visitor Center**, (361) 592-8055, [www.king-ranch.com](http://www.king-ranch.com)

*Camille Wheeler is the staff writer for Texas Co-op Power.*



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