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# Texas Coop Power

FOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

AUGUST 2020

WHAT BEING TEXAN MEANS

# MY TX



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# August 2020



08

## MY TX

What does being a Texan mean? A variety of folks with special connections to the state share their thoughts.

*Introduction by Joe Holley*

ON THE COVER  
David Torres  
of Texas Hatters.  
*Photo by Wyatt  
McSpadden*

ABOVE  
One reason  
we love Texas?  
Bluebonnets!  
*Photo by Eric W. Pohl*

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karla k. morton  
and Alan Birkelbach*

# Bee Aware

**FLOW HIVE**, an Australian company that markets a structure to harvest honey without disturbing the bees, reminds us as we recognize World Honey Bee Day on August 15 how essential bees are to life on Earth. The more than 19,000 species of bees are responsible for pollinating 30% of the world's food crops and 90% of wild plants.

For the past 15 years, bee populations have been declining at an alarming rate largely due to climate change, habitat loss and pesticide use.

Worker bees, which are female, produce about a twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in their five- to six-week life span. These are the only bees most people ever see.



## What can you do to help bees thrive?

Put the sprays away.

Plant bee-friendly flowers.

Let your veggie and herb plants flower.

Educate children on the importance of pollinators.

“Texas is the finest portion of the globe that has ever blessed my vision.”

—SAM HOUSTON

## FINISH THIS SENTENCE

WHEN I THINK OF TEXAS, I THINK OF ...

**TCP** Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to [letters@TexasCoopPower.com](mailto:letters@TexasCoopPower.com) or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and city. Here are some of the responses to our June prompt: **To me, being a Texan means ...**

It's already 90 degrees by 9 a.m. and saying, "Oh, what a beautiful day."

MIKE WHITLEY  
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC  
MCKINNEY

Being the salt of the earth and having a salty story or two to prove it.

MARK BROWNING  
SAM HOUSTON EC  
GOODRICH

Not being a Californian anymore.

DALENE MASDEN  
MEDINA EC  
MICO

Naturally saying y'all and fixin'.

CANDY PENNINGTON KIESOW  
HOUSTON COUNTY EC  
GRAPELAND

To see more responses, read Currents online.





## TCP'S NEW LOOK

From cover to cover, *Texas Co-op Power* is a new magazine. Read, enjoy and share your ideas about every section. We want to hear from all 3.7 million of you, by email or on Facebook.

# 127.36 feet

Ashrita Furman caught an intact water balloon thrown 127.36 feet by Bipin Larkin—a world record—on August 8, 2012, in New York. August 7 is National Water Balloon Day.



## Acclaimed Clipper

HENRY MILLER MORGAN opened the first college for African American barbers in 1933 in downtown Tyler. The school had only five chairs, but it thrived, and within 20 years Morgan had opened schools in Houston, Dallas, New York, Mississippi and Arkansas.

Morgan was born 125 years ago—August 25, 1895, in Tyler.



### **TCP** *Contests and More*

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#### **WIN A BOOK**

Enter to win copies of three books mentioned in this issue.

#### **FROM OUR ARCHIVE**

Want more about cowboy hats?  
Check out *Cowboy Hatters* from April 2016.



DON RUTLEDGE | COURTESY WINGS PRESS

**Rare Treat**

The last time I saw a horny toad was 15-plus years ago, and that was the first time I had seen one in probably 25 years [*The Lizard Brigade*, June 2020]. I caught the little guy to show my boys; they had never seen one before. We looked him over. I didn't want to let him go, but I knew we had to.

Tammie Frenzel  
Heart of Texas EC  
Westphalia



I grew up playing with these prehistoric lizards just a mile from where I currently live [*The Lizard Brigade*, June 2020]. These fellas are still breeding strong out here.

ALICEA LOGAN-MASTERS  
VIA FACEBOOK



**An Alternate Reality**

“I read *Black Like Me* in 1967 in high school. Eye-opening and inspiring, which led me to choose *I Have a Dream* for a class presentation.”

JOYCE BATTARBEE  
NAVASOTA VALLEY EC  
JEWETT

**Oh, My: No Mi Tierra?**

I am aghast you did not include Mi Tierra in the heart of El Mercado [*We Brake for Queso*, June 2020]. Opened in 1941, sitting 500 patrons at a time and slinging enchiladas 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Noble Dunson  
Central Texas EC  
Kingsland

We don't want to forget Guadalupe's Mexican Restaurant in Gladewater. I've been eating there for 24 years and have not had one bad meal.

Patricia Martin  
Cherokee County EC  
Starrville

**Dear Dairy**

I love the photo on telling us Texas Tech University will have a vet school [*More Critter Care*, Currents, June 2020]. Texas A&M is a fabulous institution, but they discontinued their dairy science program several years ago. (Your photo showed a Holstein dairy calf.) Texas Tech will, I hope, bring dairy science back to our veterinary programs.

Gabrielle Gordon  
Tri-County EC  
Tarrant County

**TCP WRITE TO US**  
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

Editor, Texas Co-op Power  
1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor  
Austin, TX 78701

**Please include** your electric co-op and town. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

Texas Co-op Power

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# MY TEX

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE TEXAN?

**DURING MY TIME** as a staff writer at *The Washington Post* some years ago, I also taught a journalism course every semester at George Washington University. One morning in class, I happened to mention that I had crafted something of an unofficial beat I called “eccentric Texans.”

A young woman remarked, “Gee, Mr. Holley, you sure must be busy!”

I suppose I was.

There was something about my native state that seemed to lend itself to individuality, if not necessarily eccentricity, whether I was writing about big-time politicians, athletes, show people, even a renowned lady wrestler from Amarillo. If they were Texans, chances are there was a particularity about them that defied predictability.

Living in D.C. and working at *The Post*, I was still a Texan. The place where I was born and where I had lived most of my life was in my bones, in my blood. I couldn’t shake my Texas identity any more easily than I could smooth out my Central Texas twang. It gradually dawned on me that when I wrote about Texas, I wrote with more authority, more concreteness, more feeling for the place and its people. I decided to come home—home to Texas.

My return meant coming home to family, literally and figuratively. Once again covering the immense expanse of Texas as a journalist, I rediscovered not only the rich diversity of this place but also the shared sense of identity that transcends difference. Whether I’m talking to a Panhandle rancher near Lipscomb or an East Texas teacher in Kirbyville, a Gulf Coast shrimper out of Port Isabel or a West Texas nurse in McCamey, I know—and they know—that we both are Texans. This place has shaped us.

Black, brown or white; man or woman; old or young—we’re family. Like your kinfolks and mine, we don’t always get along, but as Texans we share an identity and an abiding respect for what we have in common. We know each other well. **JOE HOLLEY**







“**THE MOMENT I KNEW** what it meant to be Texan was the evening my wife and I were invited to watch George Strait play a private show at Gruene Hall a few years back. There were all kinds of people in the room—professional wrestlers, songwriters, regular folks, you name it. The random group of people came from all walks of life to see and hear King George. It was the epitome of “Texanness.””

JAY B SAUCEDA

JAY B SAUCEDA is an entrepreneur and photographer whose book *A Mile Above Texas* features 150 photos of Texas taken from a Cessna 182T. Saucedo was raised in La Porte.



**HE HAS MADE MUSIC** for decades, though you've probably never heard Mark Erlewine play. He's a luthier—a repairer and creator of guitars at his shop in Austin. A badly mangled instrument affirmed his karma as a Texan, though it's not the threadbare acoustic guitar for which he is legendary.

"I was in my shop about 20 years ago, when a man and woman, decked out in full Texas attire—jeans, cowboy boots and hats—came in with a large black garbage bag holding the pieces of a Martin guitar," Erlewine says. "The man explained that she had put the guitar over his head during one of their arguments, but since then they had started counseling to mend their relationship. They told me part of the process of putting their relationship back together was to have the guitar put back together.

"I was able to mend the guitar and can only hope their relationship has fared as well."

There's no question about the love story of the other guitar—Willie Nelson's Trigger. Willie's pick and fingernails have carved a gaping hole in the spruce wood of his Martin N-20 classical guitar.

The strains of that relationship fall to Erlewine to mend, and as he has since 1976, he lovingly and tenderly nurses Trigger. Reunited with Willie, they continue a love story that has enraptured a state and changed its musical history.

**MARK ERLEWINE** first fell in love with Texas when he visited with friends from high school in 1967. He moved his guitar shop to Austin from Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1974.

GUITAR: WYATT MCSPADDEN. ERLEWINE: COURTESY MARK ERLEWINE





**"STOPPING THE CAR** immediately to place down kids and puppies in a field of bluebonnets for pictures. Could there be a snake in there? Sure. But the pictures are worth it."

**TIFFANY CHEN**, who, with husband Leon, started Tiff's Treats in 1999 in an Austin apartment while they were students at the University of Texas. Today the cookie and brownie delivery company has 46 locations in Texas and operates in Atlanta, Nashville and Charlotte.



"STEVIE USED TO SIT THERE and play for tips to pay for getting his hat blocked," David Torres says, gesturing toward the two-seat shoeshine stand by the front door of Texas Hatters in Lockhart. "We modified the flat top and named it the SRV."

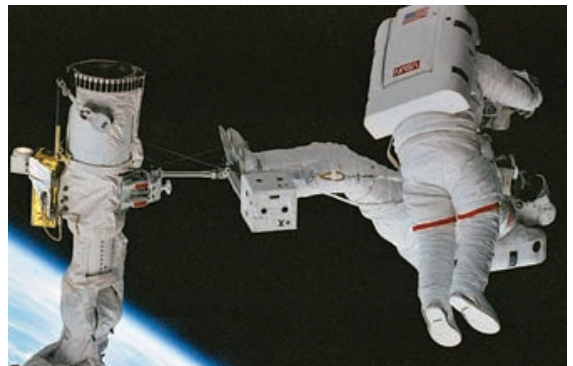
Not every celebrity gets a Texas Hatters style named for them. There is no Prince Charles or Pierce Brosnan or George W. Bush. Stevie Ray Vaughan did get the SRV.

Torres apprenticed at Texas Hatters when he met the owner's daughter, Joella, who later became his wife. She represents the third generation to operate the celebrated business, which moved to Lockhart from Buda in 2006.

"I grew up in the shop," Joella says, "and making a hat is like making a sculpture."

**DAVID TORRES** and **JOELLA GAMMAGE-TORRES** operate Texas Hatters in Lockhart. Many Texans will remember the original Austin location on South Lamar Boulevard.





**"I HAVE LOGGED** more than 438 hours and traveled over 7.2 million miles in space. No matter where I traveled and lived, I have always returned to Texas."

**BERNARD A. HARRIS JR.**, a physician, former astronaut and the first African American to walk in space. The Temple native is CEO of the National Math and Science Initiative in Dallas.



**"WE'RE PROUD TO BE TEXANS,"** says Tom Perini, who with his wife, Lisa, owns Perini Ranch Steakhouse. "We're out here in the real Texas, surrounded by wheat and cattle."

They share the story of the day four men in suits came in. "They were looking around and made me nervous. I thought they might be insurance inspectors or something," Tom says, "so I went over and sat down." It turns out the four were developing a steakhouse concept for a restaurant chain.

"What do you do to make this place so Texas?" one asked.

"We don't," Tom answered. "It is."

**TOM and LISA PERINI** own the legendary Perini Ranch Steakhouse in Buffalo Gap.

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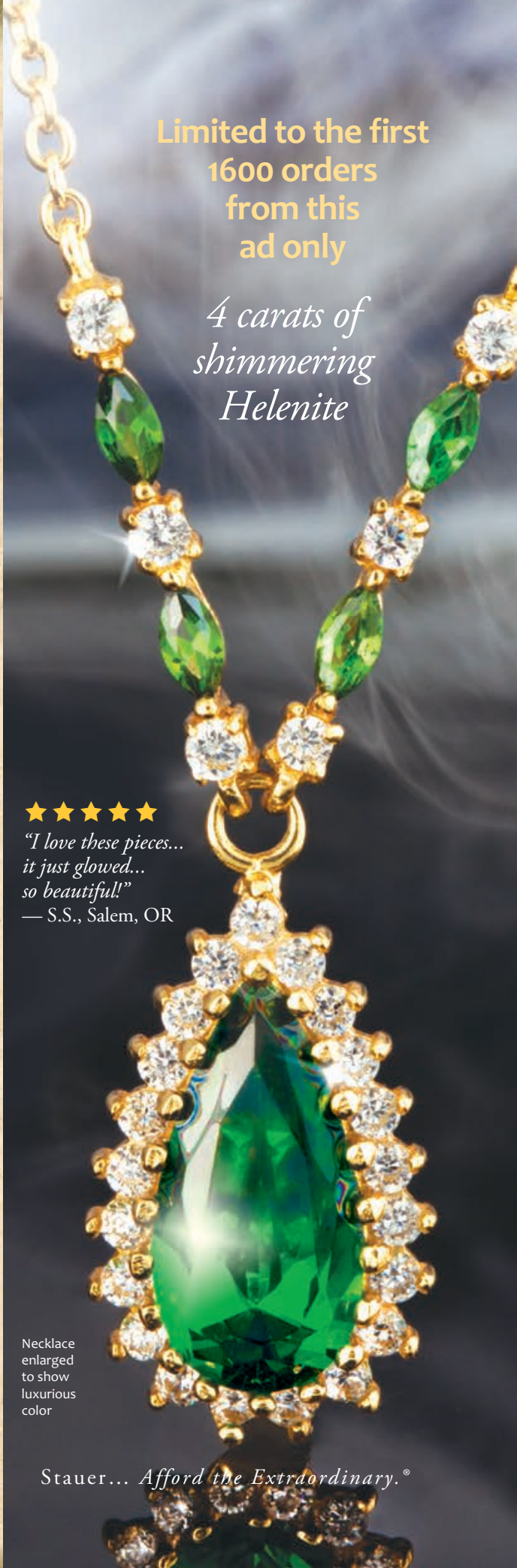


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— S.S., Salem, OR

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# WHARTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



MESSAGE FROM YOUR GENERAL MANAGER/CEO  
**GARY RAYBON**

## 'Texas Co-op Power' Gets a New Look

**YOU MIGHT HAVE** noticed something was different when you pulled this magazine out of your mailbox this month. Perhaps you thought the cover looked a little different. Well, you're right, but the changes go deeper than that.

*Texas Co-op Power* has undergone a complete redesign. But even though it has a new look and feel, it's the same magazine you know and love.

Every month, *Texas Co-op Power* is delivered to you to entertain, enlighten and educate you and your family. The magazine is a warm and friendly source for all things Texan, and like a well-informed neighbor, it can offer the secrets to making fabulous, family-pleasing meals; reveal hidden gems of the Texas landscape; and recount the humorous, quirky, solemn and often untold stories of our state's history. Also like a good neighbor, it even reminds you how to save on your electric bill.

Most importantly, *Texas Co-op Power* is one of the primary vehicles through which Wharton County Electric Cooperative communicates directly with you, our members.

Through these pages, we report on matters important to the co-op, such as director elections and changes to our bylaws; share tips to help you maximize the energy efficiency of your home; and offer safety information that could save your life. We also use this magazine to help you understand how new technologies—which continue to advance at a sometimes overwhelming pace—fit into your daily life.

For more than a year, the team behind *Texas Co-op Power* has worked diligently to update the look and feel of the magazine without sacrificing any of the content or character



that inspires our members, month after month, to crack open these pages for some uniquely Texan stories—and a healthy dose of the cooperative spirit.

One of the major changes you may have noticed is the refreshed cover design and new *Texas Co-op Power* logo. The last time the logo was updated was in the mid-1990s, and though it suited that era well, sensibilities have changed. The new logo incorporates a modern feel that's in line with the magazine's evolution but sticks to its roots.

As you flip through this month's issue, you'll also see some smaller yet still significant changes, such as new colors and typefaces, new section headers, and more visually striking page layouts. Despite

these changes, all of your favorite content is still here.

*Texas Co-op Power* remains dedicated to telling the stories of Texas' unique people, history, mythology, culture and geography—the Texan way of life—as seen through the equally unique co-op lens. Readers will still enjoy all the best the magazine has to offer, from recipes, contests and event listings to travel narratives and other features, as well as local news concerning WCEC and the communities we serve. Readers can also still enjoy expanded content, contests and other special treats at [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) and on our Facebook page and by subscribing to our e-newsletters.

The magazine has evolved with an eye toward the future, but it retains all the hallmarks that generations of rural electric cooperative members have cherished since the first issue in 1944. Just like WCEC, it's here to stay and better than ever. ■



BRIAN BROWN | ISTOCK.COM

## Five Home Energy Hogs

**IF YOU'VE COMPARED** your electric bill with a neighbor's and found your bill to be notably higher, even though your homes are similar in size, you might be wondering why—and how you can lower your bill.

Even though homes and families may be similar, you may have a hidden energy drain causing your bills to be higher. Here are five energy hogs that may increase your energy use.

### 1. Old Fridge or Freezer in the Garage

That second fridge or freezer may be costing more than you think. If the model was produced prior to 1990, it's likely using twice as much energy (or more!) than a newer Energy Star rated model. If it's located in the garage, it may run constantly in the summer, which could lead to higher electric bills. It might be time to rethink that spare fridge that's out there holding beverages; instead, bring those drinks into the kitchen refrigerator and retire the spare.

### 2. Cooling or Heating an Uninsulated Area

Cooling or heating an uninsulated workshop or garage can be expensive. For example, if a homeowner heated an uninsulated shed to keep several half-empty buckets of paint from freezing, they're paying more to keep paint warm than the paint was even worth. Pet owners have been known to heat and cool an uninsulated garage to keep pets comfortable, not realizing that this might be costing more than heating their actual home. If you really want to heat or cool these types of spaces, they need to be well insulated and heated and cooled efficiently, perhaps with a ductless minisplit system.

### 3. Hot Tub

The average operating cost of a hot tub is \$250 per year. But that amount may be higher if your hot tub is an older, less efficient model or if you live in a colder climate. A smaller hot tub with better insulation, a cover and a pump that runs on a lower voltage will use less energy than other models. In the long run, getting a "good deal" on a used hot tub may cost more in energy bills than a newer, more efficient model.

### 4. Swimming Pool

If you have a swimming pool, consider installing a smaller, more efficient pump and reducing how often it runs. Putting it on a timer can be a convenient way to reduce operating time. You can also look at installing a larger filter and maximizing the flow of water through the pipes by making them larger and reducing how sharply the corners turn. These measures could cut your electric use for the pool pump by as much as 75%. Consult with a pool installation specialist to find the most efficient setup that will still keep your pool clean.

### 5. Pumps

If you live on acreage or a farm, you probably have several pumps, including irrigation, well, septic and sump. If you're like most of us, you use those pumps until they break down. Consider replacing the oldest and most used pumps over time with new, more efficient ones that are sized correctly for their task. Also, make sure you're eliminating leaks in the water lines. ■

# Drive Thru Annual Meeting Breaks Voting Record



Warehouse Supervisor Kenny Trochta hands out the Annual Report to members as they enter the drive thru line.

**A RECORD-BREAKING 760 MEMBERS OF WHARTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** cast their vote for the WCEC Board of Directors during the 82nd Annual Meeting of Members on June 17, 2020.

As a member-owned electric cooperative, WCEC is governed by a Board of Directors representing and elected by the membership. Each year, a meeting of members is held to present business reports to the membership and elect members to the board. Traditionally, a sit-down meal is served, and the business meeting and election are conducted in person. However, due to COVID-19 precautions, the meeting was held as a non-traditional, drive thru meeting this year.

“We didn’t know what to expect,” WCEC GM/CEO Gary Raybon says. “We anticipated that we may have more members come out for the drive thru meeting and were prepared for a 25% increase over the average for the last five years. No one could have imagined that we would end up with almost double that amount. It was wonderful to see our members show up to take part in the most important part of our co-op’s business – the election of their representatives.”



## 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The WCEC 2020 Board of Directors are: (l-r) Patrick Kubala, Rick Graff, Frankie Peter, Paul Phillips Jr., Gus Wessels Jr., John Roach, Craig Hardin, Gary Raybon - GM/CEO, Peggy Glaze, and Jim W. Harton.



◀ The Balloting Committee (a group of WCEC members appointed to oversee the collection and counting of ballots) awaits members coming through the drive thru line.

▼ Mary Arredondo and Selena DeLaPena quickly register members using mobile devices.



At 760 members voting, the 2020 Annual Meeting is indeed a record-breaker. The next highest turn out for voting members was 498 in 2009. In recent years, the co-op has been prepared for up to 500 voting members as attendance has been on a slow decline. This year, that was not enough.

“We did run out of ballots and attendance gifts early in the evening,” Raybon says. “More ballots were quickly printed, and members were given IOUs to pick up their gift at a later date. The numbers took everyone by surprise.”

At the end of the evening, WCEC members voted to re-elect Jim W. Harton in District 8 over Fritz Cornelius. In District 2, Patrick Kubala defeated Karl H. Haupt. In District 5, Samuel Craig Hardin was elected over Annett K. Simmons and Rick Marik. Kubala and Hardin will replace Leroy Kaspar and A.J. Kresta, respectively. Both had reached their term limits.

In addition, the Minutes of the 2019 WCEC Annual Meeting, the WCEC Financial Report and the President’s & Manager’s Reports were approved by those submitting ballots.

Although an official presentation was not held, WCEC recognized the following Employee Service Milestones in the Annual Report: Wesley Lange for 50 years of service, Tim Bohuslar for 15 years, Miriam Piloto for 15 years, Willie Stavena for 15 years, and Keaton Hubbell for 5 years.

Also due to COVID-19 precautions, the 2020 Government-in-Action Youth Tour was cancelled. Both WCEC delegates, Elizabeth Jeffery and Isabel Lillie, were awarded scholarships in lieu of the trip this year.

As is tradition, all voting members were included in a drawing for door prizes although the format was



▲ A group of employees relax as they pose for a quick photo after the meeting.

► Gary Raybon and Nathan Danielson assist in registering members.

▼ Diane Barger directs a member to the Ballot Drop Off after handing out an attendance gift.

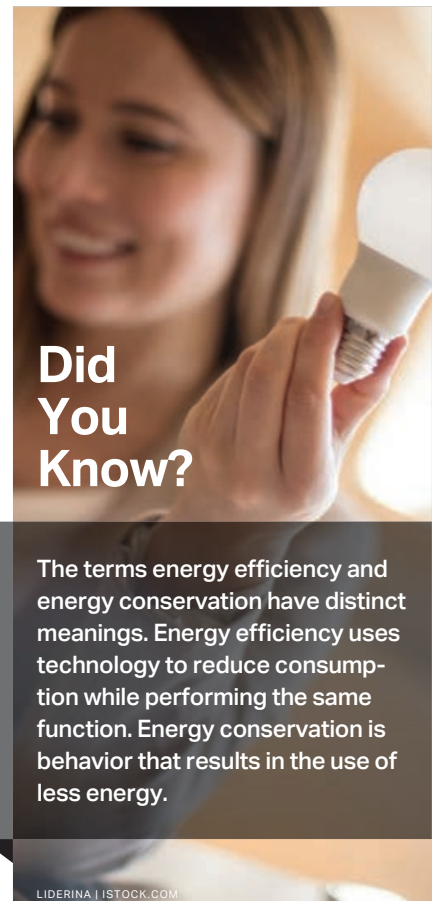


slightly different. The drawing was held on Thursday, June 18, in the WCEC lobby and was streamed live on Facebook.

The grand prize winners were Bobby Peter, Stephen Helterbridle and Felix E. Mica Jr. each receiving \$100 Electricity Credits as well as Alice Atchetee who won a \$300 Electricity Credit.

Extra attendance gifts were ordered and IOU vouchers can be redeemed at the WCEC office.

“Overall, the meeting was very successful with so many of our members participating,” Raybon says. “We want to thank everyone who came out and for their patience as we worked through the glitches. As always, we look forward to seeing you all next year.” ■



## Did You Know?

The terms energy efficiency and energy conservation have distinct meanings. Energy efficiency uses technology to reduce consumption while performing the same function. Energy conservation is behavior that results in the use of less energy.

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### POWER TIP

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## One Member, One Vote

**COOPERATIVES AROUND THE WORLD** operate according to the same set of core principles and values, adopted by the International Cooperative Alliance. These principles are a key reason that America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of their members first. The second Cooperative Principle is Democratic Member Control.

At most cooperatives this is referred to as one member, one vote. When members sign up for electric service, they pay a \$5.00 membership fee. Part of the rights and benefits of this membership are a vote in the running of the Cooperative. Confusion can arise when one member has more than one account.

For example, John Doe might have separate accounts for his home, his water well, and a DBA (doing business as) repair shop. Even though he has three accounts, he has one membership and is entitled to one vote. A different example would be John Smith who has a house and a business, John Smith Farms. If John Smith Farms was set up as a separate entity on the membership application, then Mr. Smith would have two votes, one for himself and one for his farm account.

If you have multiple accounts and would like to know how your membership is listed, please call us at (979) 543-6271. ■

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## COVID-19 to Impact Co-ops Nationwide for Years to Come

**AS THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC** has caused local businesses to close their doors and hardworking Americans to lose their jobs, new economic projections show the nation's electric cooperatives could suffer up to \$10 billion in lost revenue through 2022. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is asking Congress to step in.

New research shows that electric co-op operating revenues are expected to decline by \$7.4 billion as electricity sales fall by 5% through 2022 due to lower U.S. economic output. And a surge in unemployment coupled with mandatory and voluntary moratoriums on service disconnections in 46 states is expected to increase the balance of unpaid electric bills to \$2.6 billion through 2022.

Not-for-profit electric cooperatives have no shareholders, are owned by the communities they serve and routinely return excess revenues to their consumer-members. Lost revenue can severely constrain the ability of certain electric co-ops to meet the needs of their communities. Rural electric co-ops face high fixed costs, particularly from their responsibility to maintain 42% of the nation's electric distribution lines to serve just 13% of the nation's electric consumers.

"Electricity powers the American economy, and a stalled economy uses less energy," said Russell Tucker, NRECA's chief economist. "As gross domestic product growth falls in the wake of COVID-19, co-op electricity sales are projected to decline. We expect reductions in electric co-op sales of 6.1% in 2020, 6% in 2021, and 3% in 2022."

Despite these challenges, Wharton County Electric Cooperative will continue to provide you with the same reliable service you deserve and have come to expect. ■




CHARLOTTE LAKE | ISTOCK.COM

### Tasty Tuna Tacos

- 1 box taco shells, 12 count**
- 2 cans (6 ounces each) chunk light tuna in water**
- ¼ cup finely chopped green onions**
- ¼ cup finely chopped red bell pepper**
- ¼ cup finely chopped yellow bell pepper**
- 1 bunch fresh cilantro (rinsed, dried, stems removed)**
- ½ cup finely grated carrots**
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice (half of 1 large lime)**
- 2 cups thick and chunky mild salsa**
- 8 ounces grated Monterey Jack or pepper jack cheese**
- 1 can (4 ounces) sliced ripe olives**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with foil and arrange taco shells in a single layer. Warm 5-7 minutes.
2. For filling, drain and chop tuna and place in a medium-sized bowl. Add onions, peppers, cilantro and carrots. Add lime juice to tuna mixture. Thoroughly mix all ingredients using a large mixing spoon.
3. Remove taco shells from oven and add 1/4-1/3 cup of filling mixture to each taco shell. Follow with 2 tablespoons salsa and 2 tablespoons grated cheese. Garnish with 10-12 olive slices. Serve immediately.

 Find this and more delicious recipes online at [TexasCoopPower.com](https://www.TexasCoopPower.com).



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| Bill Date:                                  | 08/31/2020       | Type of Service: | COOP       |          |                |
| Meter Number:                               | 40929            |                  |            |          |                |
| Meter                                       | Previous Reading | Present Reading  | Multiplier | KWH Used | Demand Reading |
| 1   | 17516            | 19933            | 1.0000     | 2417     |                |
| KWH Used One Year Ago:                      |                  |                  |            |          |                |
| Average Monthly KWH On Past 12 Months: 1466 |                  |                  |            |          |                |
| From:                                       | 07/27/2020       | To Date:         | 09/31/2020 | Days:    | 31             |
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Service Address: RESIDENCE

**BASIC CHARGES:**  
Generation prices are set by our power supplier, South Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc. and flow through to WCEC members.

|                          |                          |                 |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| GENERATION:              | 2417 kwh x /kwh .04688   | \$113.31        |
| DEMAND:                  | KW x /KW                 |                 |
| GCRF:                    | 2417 kwh x /kwh .01250   | \$30.21         |
| LOAD MANAGEMENT:         | x /kwh                   | \$-25.00        |
| <b>TOTAL GENERATION:</b> | <b>4,90360 cents/kwh</b> | <b>\$118.92</b> |

# Capital Credit Refunded This Month

At their June 23, 2020 meeting, the WCEC Board of Directors approved refunding patronage capital for the years 2017 and 2018. The refunds will total \$465,423 and will be refunded to current members as a bill credit on the bills they will receive on or about September 1, 2020.

The credit can be found in the nonbasic charges section of the bill (see example above).

Former WCEC members will be mailed a check to the last known address on file. If you have any questions about your capital credit, visit the WCEC office or call us at (979) 543-6271.

## Who is Authorized To Access Your Account?

WCEC employees are only allowed to disclose information to or take service requests from individuals listed on the account.

We are a small organization, and we pride ourselves on personal service. We don't want to be put in the position of not being able to assist someone with billing issues if they are not listed on the account. However, given the litigious society that we live in, we cannot risk divulging information to unauthorized individuals.

For example, if your spouse calls us for a service issue or bill inquiry and is not listed on your account, we cannot disclose any information about the account.

We encourage all members to review who is authorized to access your accounts and keep this information updated. If your spouse is an authorized user, their name will also appear on your monthly bill. If you have any questions or need to make a change to your account, please call us at (979) 543-6271.



## Wharton County Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

### GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Gary Raybon

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- DISTRICT 1: Paul Phillips Jr., Vice-President
- DISTRICT 2: Patrick Kubala
- DISTRICT 3: Frankie Peter, President
- DISTRICT 4: Rick Graff, Secretary-Treasurer
- DISTRICT 5: Samuel Craig Hardin
- DISTRICT 6: Gus Wessels Jr.
- DISTRICT 7: John Roach
- DISTRICT 8: Jim W. Harton, Asst. Sec.-Treas.
- DISTRICT 9: Peggy Glaze

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# Bad to the Bone

Full tang stainless steel blade with natural bone handle —now **ONLY \$79!**

The very best hunting knives possess a perfect balance of form and function. They're carefully constructed from fine materials, but also have that little something extra to connect the owner with nature.

If you're on the hunt for a knife that combines impeccable craftsmanship with a sense of wonder, the **\$79 Huntsman Blade** is the trophy you're looking for.

The blade is full tang, meaning it doesn't stop at the handle but extends to the length of the grip for the ultimate in strength. The blade is made from 420 surgical steel, famed for its sharpness and its resistance to corrosion.

The handle is made from genuine natural bone, and features decorative wood spacers and a hand-carved motif of two overlapping feathers—a reminder for you to respect and connect with the natural world.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

**But we don't stop there.** While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99, 8x21 power compact, binoculars *and* a genuine leather sheath **FREE** when you purchase the **Huntsman Blade**.

**Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed.** Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

**Limited Reserves.** A deal like this won't last long. We have only 1120 **Huntsman Blades** for this ad only. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

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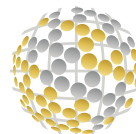
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# Empowering Every Vote

Activist Jessie Daniel Ames took on women's suffrage and lynching

BY TANYA ESTES

**DURING A TIME WHEN WOMEN** fought for the right to vote, a widowed mother of three mobilized thousands of women to vote in just 17 days. In a race against the clock, Jessie Daniel Ames employed an unexpected resource to register voters before a critical election that changed the course of Texas history by diminishing the political influence of the Ku Klux Klan.

The Ames family moved from Palestine to Georgetown when Jessie was a child. She led a quiet and dutiful life, graduating from Southwestern University in 1902, a rare accomplish-

ment for a woman at the time.

Ames married a few years after college, but her husband died in Guatemala of malaria in 1914, leaving her a pregnant widow with two children. To support her young family, Ames went to work for her family's telephone company in Georgetown. Managing a communications business taught her how to succeed in a male-dominated industry, and this success further paved the way for her equal rights activism.

Ames founded the Georgetown Equal Suffrage League in 1916 and wrote *Weekly Suffrage Notes*, a column in *The*

*Williamson County Sun*. By 1918 she became treasurer of the Texas Equal Suffrage Association.

In 1918 the Legislature passed a bill that gave Texas women the right to vote in a primary but gave them only 17 days to register before the election. Using the telephone company to contact voters, Ames and her fellow suffragists registered more than 3,500 women to vote in Williamson County. In just two weeks, they provided voting instructions and staged mock elections to prepare these women for their historic first vote.

This voter registration campaign helped secure the election of anti-klan candidate Dan Moody as Williamson County attorney, and Moody actively prosecuted many klan members. This election victory gave Moody the momentum to get elected Texas attorney general and go on to become governor. Ames continued to register voters by founding the Texas League of Women Voters.

One hundred years ago this month, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted women the right to vote and was ratified August 18, 1920.

Though proud of her suffrage efforts, Ames felt such organizations did not do enough for African American civil rights. She led campaigns against lynching as an atrocious act of racism and set about ending it through work with the Texas Interracial Commission and the Commission on Interracial Cooperation. She also founded the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, which excluded Black women under the belief that only white women could influence other white women.

After more than 30 years working for social justice, Ames retired quietly. She is buried in Georgetown, a few blocks from the courthouse where she mobilized thousands of women in a movement that confirmed the power of every vote. ■

# Cool Foods

Chill out with salads, slaws and sauerkraut

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

At the height of summer, the last thing my husband and I want to do is turn on the stove. We do plenty of grilling, of course, but when the temperatures soar, we seek out chilled recipes that help our family cool down at the end of the day. This recipe uses juicy summer tomatoes to create a quick and easy chilled soup that goes with just about any meal. If you have fresh herbs in your garden, feel free to add those. Basil is the perfect accompaniment, but thyme or oregano also works well.

## Easy Gazpacho

**4 large tomatoes, about 2 pounds**

**1 cucumber**

**¼ cup chopped red onion**

**1 clove garlic**

**2 tablespoons red wine vinegar**

**2 tablespoons olive oil**

**Salt and pepper, to taste**

**1.** Core and quarter tomatoes and remove seeds, then add tomatoes to a blender or food processor.

**2.** Peel and quarter cucumber lengthwise and remove seeds. Add cucumber, onion, garlic, vinegar and olive oil to blender.

**3.** Blend mixture until completely smooth. Add salt and pepper to taste and chill soup until ready to serve. Garnish with fresh herbs, as desired.

SERVES 4

**TCP WEB EXTRA** Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at [stetted.com](http://stetted.com), where she features a recipe for Cucumber Tomato Salad With Pesto.





## Baja Black Bean Salad

DEBI MARION  
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC

Black bean salad is a versatile dish that can serve as a meatless main, side or scrumptious topper for tacos. Making it ahead of time ensures that the flavors intermingle and keeps you out of the kitchen during the heat of the day.

**1 can (15 ounces) black beans, drained and rinsed**

**1/3 cup diced celery**

**1/3 cup peeled, seeded and diced cucumber**

**1/4 cup diced red bell pepper**

**1/4 cup diced green bell pepper**

**1/4 cup diced red onion**

**1/4 cup crumbled feta or cotija cheese**

**1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro**

**1/2 jalapeño pepper, minced**

**1/4 cup olive oil**

**1 tablespoon vinegar**

**1 lime, zested and juiced**

**1.** In a medium bowl, combine beans, celery, cucumber, bell pepper, onion, cheese, cilantro and jalapeño.

**2.** In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, and lime zest and juice. Pour over bean mixture and stir to coat.

**3.** Cover and refrigerate 2–4 hours to let flavors meld.

**SERVES 4**



\$500 WINNER

## Mama's Chilled Sauerkraut Corn Relish

LORY VON STADEN  
HEART OF TEXAS EC



Summer's hot dogs and sausages get a boost from this lively sauerkraut topping. It's an excellent side dish for other grilled fare, too. Von Staden recommends using it to add a peppery zing to steaks.

**SERVES 12**

**1 can (14.5 ounces) sauerkraut**

**3/4 cup sugar**

**1/2 cup vegetable oil**

**1/4 cup vinegar**

**1/2 teaspoon celery seeds**

**1 can (15.25 ounces) corn, drained**

**1/2 cup chopped red or green bell pepper**

**1 jar (4 ounces) pimientos, drained  
Salt and pepper, to taste**

**1.** Pour sauerkraut into a colander set over the sink. Press with the back of a spoon or use your hands to drain excess liquid from the sauerkraut.

**2.** In a medium bowl, whisk together sugar, oil, vinegar and celery seeds. Stir until sugar is dissolved and mixture is well blended.

**3.** Add the drained sauerkraut, corn, bell pepper and pimientos to the dressing and mix well. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

**4.** Cover and chill at least 8 hours before serving, to let the flavors meld.

## TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

**VEGETARIAN** DUE AUG 10

A new year is the perfect time to add more vegetables and legumes to your diet. We're looking for your go-to Vegetarian recipe. Enter our January 2021 contest online by August 10.

[MORE RECIPES >](#)

## Mama's Watermelon Salad

TINA HALL CARTER  
HOUSTON COUNTY EC

Serve this vibrant salad as soon as it's prepared to keep the watermelon crisp and the greens from wilting.

**3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil**  
**1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar**  
**Salt and pepper, to taste**  
**½ medium watermelon, diced**  
**1½ cups baby greens**  
**1 cup diced cucumber**  
**½ cup chopped mint leaves**  
**¼ cup crumbled feta cheese**  
**¼ red onion, sliced very thin**

1. In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, and salt and pepper. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, combine watermelon, greens, cucumber, mint, feta and onion. Drizzle the salad with the vinaigrette and toss gently to coat evenly.

SERVES 6



## Chicken With Confetti Slaw

CHRISTINE HENDERSON  
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

This chilled salad is wonderful on a hot day. Make it ahead of time to let the dressing flavors meld, but be sure not to add the peanuts until just before serving so they retain their crunch.

### DRESSING

**½ cup mayonnaise**  
**½ cup prepared French onion dip**  
**1 tablespoon rice vinegar**  
**2 tablespoons toasted sesame seed oil**  
**1 teaspoon garlic powder**  
**1 teaspoon onion powder**

**1 teaspoon celery salt**  
**1 teaspoon sugar**

### SALAD

**5 cups finely chopped green cabbage**  
**¾ cup finely chopped carrot**  
**¾ cup chopped celery**  
**¾ cup chopped red bell pepper**  
**½ cup finely chopped red onion**  
**2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley**  
**3 cups shredded cooked chicken**  
**1 cup coarsely chopped dry roasted peanuts**

**1. DRESSING** Combine all of the dressing ingredients in a small bowl and set aside or refrigerate until ready to make the salad.

**2. SALAD** In a large bowl combine cabbage, carrot, celery, bell pepper, onion, parsley and chicken.

**3.** Add the dressing to the salad and stir to combine thoroughly.

**4.** Cover and chill at least 2 hours. Just before serving, stir in the peanuts.

SERVES 6

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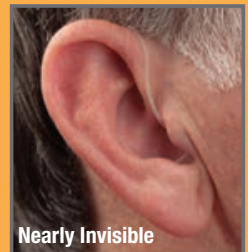
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COURTESY CHET GARNER

## Mysterious Message

Prehistoric rock art at White Shaman Preserve seems to tell a story

BY CHET GARNER

**WHO IS THE WHITE SHAMAN?** It's a mystery that has intrigued archaeologists ever since the discovery of this rock art mural decades ago. I made the trip to Comstock for my opportunity to ponder the mystery for myself.

You'll find the White Shaman Preserve, owned by San Antonio's Witte Museum, on U.S. Highway 90, less than 2 miles from Seminole Canyon State Park, about halfway between Comstock and Langtry. The surrounding landscape, the Lower Pecos Canyonlands, holds hundreds of drawings and murals dating back 2,000–4,000 years.

After a short hike led by Bryan Bayles, curator of anthropology and health at the Witte Museum, we climbed a treacherous path to a rock shelter approximately 30 feet long and 15 feet deep and perched along a cliff near the Pecos River. A mural, a complicated composition covering the shelter's entire wall, includes figures, animals, squiggly lines and dots. In the middle stands the White Shaman, an ominous figure with tiny arms and legs. Without an interpreter I could not have understood this cryptic scene.

As Bayles began to explain, the complexity of the mural came to life. Figures I didn't see at first suddenly became clear. Colors that I had missed became vibrant. And I realized that there was much more to this mural than my untrained eye could have noticed. According to tradition, a shaman is a Native American healer and a conduit to the spirit world. And so it's believed that this mural tells a spiritual story—perhaps even the story of creation.

The most amazing aspect is that it was all painted at one time to tell one story. Deciphering that story's mystery is something every Texan should try.

ABOVE Bryan Bayles of the Witte Museum stands with Chet.

**TCP WEB EXTRA** See Chet's video from White Shaman Preserve and check out his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS. Enter online to win the book *The White Shaman Mural* by Carolyn E. Boyd.

## Know Before You Go

Some events may have been affected by COVID-19. Call or check an event's website for scheduling details.

## AUGUST

07

**New Braunfels [7–8] Whiskey Myers**, (830) 964-3800, whitewaterrocks.com

**Kerrville [7–Sept. 19] Texas: The Land & the Legacy, the Art of Robert Pummill**, (830) 896-2553, museumofwesternart.com

**Kerrville [7–8, 14–16, 21–22] Little Shop of Horrors**, (830) 896-2553, caillouxtheater.com

13

**Edinburg [13–15] Edinburg UFO Festival**, (956) 383-6246, edinburgufo.com

14

**Ingram [14–15, 21–22, 28–29] No Body Like Jimmy**, (830) 367-5121, hcaf.com

**Ingram [14–Sept. 18] Point of View—Hill Country Arts Foundation Annual Juried Show**, (830) 367-5121, hcaf.com

15

**Kerrville Kids' Triathlon**, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

**Lake Jackson Bird Banding**, (979) 480-0999, visitbrazosport.com

17

**Dallas Inks & Skylines**, (214) 712-7040, reuniontower.com/hours-events/

21

**Tyler [21–23] Texas Rose Breed Show**, (817) 683-8284, texasrosehorsepark.com

22

**Lakeway Cool Arts Sales & Studio Tour**, (512) 261-1010, lakeway-tx.gov

23

**Castroville St. Louis Day Celebration**, (830) 931-2826, saintlouisday.com

**Tyler Western Dressage Lite**, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

28

**Kerrville Blackwood Singers**, (830) 896-9393, caillouxtheater.com

29

**College Station Dancing for the Health of It! Back to the '80s**, (979) 774-4176

**Kerrville River Roadster Show**, (830) 257-7300, kerrvilletx.gov

## SEPTEMBER

02

**Tyler [2-6] Texas Rose Sporthorse Cup**, (903) 882-8696, texasrosehorsepark.com

03

**La Grange [3-6] Fayette County Fair**, (979) 702-2426, fayettecountyfair.org

05

**Doss VFD Benefit Fish Fry**, (830) 669-2352, dossvfd.org

**Fort McKavett New Exhibit Debut and Movie Screening**, (325) 396-2358

**Hilltop Lakes Equestrian Association Kentucky Derby Gala**, (713) 503-0470

**McKinney [5-Feb. 15] Dinosaurs Live!**, (972) 562-5566, heardmuseum.org

### **Submit Your Event**

We pick events for the magazine directly from TexasCoopPower.com. Submit your event online for October by August 10, and it just might be featured in this calendar.

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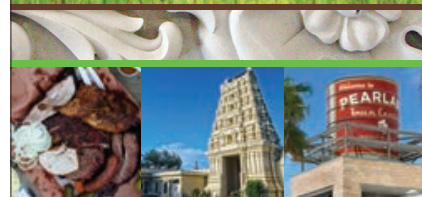
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# On the Water

This month, our readers blew us out of the water with terrific catches that flowed in from around the state. Texas photographers of all ages take amazing nature shots like a duck takes to water. You'll be in hot water if you miss out, so let's get quackin'!

GRACE FULTZ



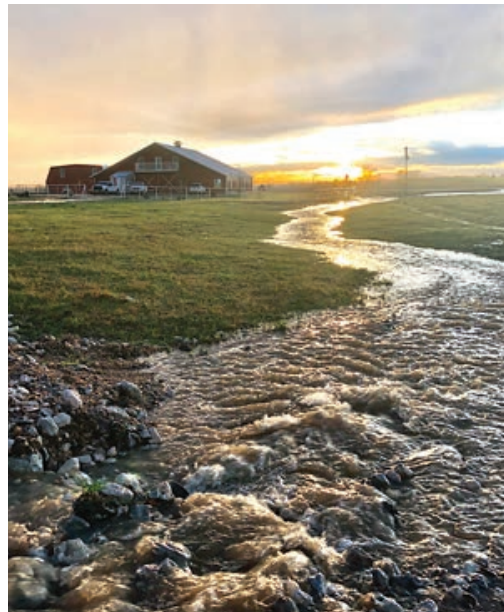
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

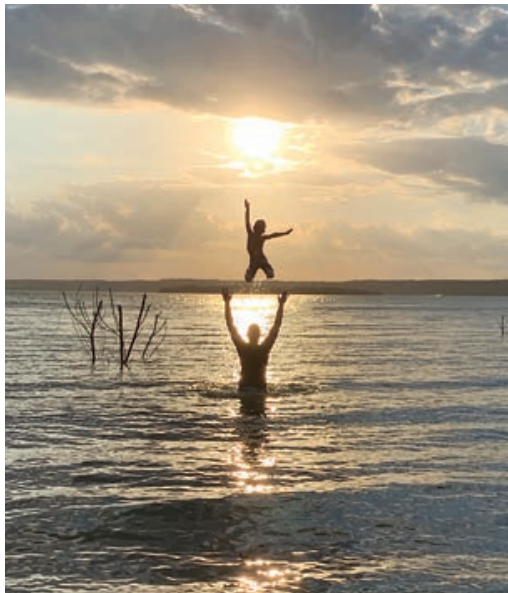
**STEVEN CHERNOSKY**  
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES  
"Social distancing on the Brazos River at sunset near Batts Ferry."

**KAREN FULGHUM**  
BANDERA EC  
"My husband, Mike Fulghum, skiing on beautiful Medina Lake years ago."

**MARIA FRIESEN**  
LAMAR ELECTRIC  
A stream rushes by after a March rain in Brookston.

**JAMIE B. WAGNER**  
PEDERNALES EC  
Tricolored heron wading in the salt marsh on South Padre Island.





## Upcoming Contests

**DUE AUG 10** On Wheels

**DUE SEP 10** Forests

**DUE OCT 10** Saddles

Enter online and review submission rules at [TexasCoopPower.com/Contests](https://TexasCoopPower.com/Contests).

**TCP WEB EXTRA** See Focus on Texas on our website for more photos from readers.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

**YEISHA CULP  
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC**  
"My 10-year-old daughter, Jacque, took this while playing in the backyard."

**ANNE LEHNICK  
BLUEBONNET EC**  
"Skyler at 2½ feeding the seagulls in Rockport with her dad."

**TINA WEBB  
BLUEBONNET EC**  
"My son, Colin, is an avid fisherman. One of his favorite spots, as seen here, is Lake Somerville."

**JASMINE CHANDLER  
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC**  
Chandler's son, Beau, and husband, Kai, play in Lake Bridgeport.





karla k. morton's suitcase at White Sands National Park.

**TCP WEB EXTRA**

Enter online to win morton and Birkelbach's book, *The National Parks: A Century of Grace*.

social consciousness. In this digital age, there is no replacement for nature at its most profound. Wonder cannot be exported or imported but can be captured with words—and those words can travel unlimited miles.

The parks are a gift, a legacy, something uniquely American. What better way to instill inspiration in our fellow humans than by bringing these beauties, in the form of books, into their homes. We believe poetry is every person's art, just as the national parks are every person's inheritance.

Texas was built on big dreams and big quests. Had we lived in a lesser state—another state—we would not have had that in our blood. It prepared us culturally to think beyond borders, to think past the horizon.

Travel doesn't make San Antonio or Fort Worth less iconic. Texas prepares you for wide-accepting visions and makes you appreciate home even more.

A lot of the early parks were created under monumentalism. Consider the Alamo, the Chisholm Trail and Willie Nelson—is there anything more monumental than Texas?

This is what we came home to, and still come home to—every time.

Texas has a rich and deep literary history. We were spoon-fed this from our youth. Like Homer recounting the journey of Odysseus, we longed to be the eyes and ears for the homebound, to bring our tales back to the hearth.

We're certainly not the first artists who believe inspiration could come through great natural beauty, who have fallen in love with the grandeur of our national parks, but we wanted to take it one step further and try to do something incredible: to infuse that beauty into the written word—the eternal language of poetry. ■

## Coming Home

The wonders of Texas prepared distinguished poets to appreciate America's national parks

STORY AND PHOTO  
BY KARLA K. MORTON  
AND ALAN BIRKELBACH

**THE NATIONAL PARKS** are America's priceless treasures. These lands still need those who are willing to give their time and hearts to make sure the parks continue to be protected.

As poets laureate, this was our calling: to visit all 62 national parks and write poems and take photos for each, with a percentage of our book sales going back to the national parks.

We, however, are *Texas* poets laureate. There are new meanings of grand. Even by national park standards, Texas stands up: Big Bend, Guadalupe Mountains, ocean, plains, Big Thicket. Because our eyes were already widened by Texas, we had the capacity to appreciate all the wonders the national parks had to offer.

Certain things should never fall out of

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**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

**HaulMaster** ★★★★★ (4997)

**4 Piece, 1" x 15 ft. Ratcheting Tie Downs**

**\$6.99** ~~\$12.39~~

Compare to Keeper 5505 \$22.80  
ITEM 62056 62057/62150 56664 60394 shown

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39480619 LIMIT 4 - Exp. 10/1/20\*



**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

**PITTSBURGH** ★★★★★ (1394)

**Rapid Pump® 1.5 Ton Lightweight Aluminum Floor Jack**

**\$59.99** ~~\$79.99~~

Compare to K Tool KT163094 \$151.42  
ITEM 44552 64832/64980 64545 shown

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39489204 LIMIT 2 - Exp. 10/1/20\*



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