

THE BIG, BIG BOOK
ABOUT PLANTS

REAL LIFE MEETS
'LONESOME DOVE'

SO FAR, SNAKES ARE
OFF THE HOOK

Texas Coop Power

FOR TRI-COUNTY EC MEMBERS

AUGUST 2023

Pathways to Peace

Finding healing in
labyrinths across Texas

TRI-COUNTY
EC NEWS

SEE PAGE 16



TV•EARS®

A Better Way to hearTV®

"Now Jack can control the volume on his TV•Ears while I set the TV volume or mute it for complete quiet. Once again, he can understand every word and we can watch our favorite TV shows together."

— Darlene & Jack B., CA

Struggling to hear the TV?

Put on your TV•EARS® and hear every word clearly

Doctor recommended TV•Ears has helped millions of people with hearing loss enjoy their favorite television shows, movies and streaming content without disturbing others.

The Voice Clarifying Technology® reduces background noise and clarifies hard to hear television dialog making voices and words understandable. 120db of volume makes TV•Ears the most powerful television listening system on the market!

Quiet TV mode lets others mute the television or set the volume to their preferred level while you listen as loud as you want on the headset.



Ultra-soft ear tips

Headset weighs 2 oz.

Rechargeable Battery

(((WIRELESS)))

No more loud TV!

For fastest service,
Call toll-free
1-800-379-7832

Doctor Recommended TV Headset™

TV dialog is clear and understandable

Over 2.5 million satisfied customers

Top Selling Brand for 25 Years

TV•Ears Original™

~~\$129.95~~

STARTING AT \$79.95^{+s&h}

AFTER \$50 OFF

Use promo code 36480

30-day risk free trial

Same day shipping

www.tvears.com

August 2023



06

Make Your Shelf Useful

Scooter Cheatham has dedicated his life to voluminous books that document uses for Texas’ plants.

By Sheryl Smith-Rodgers

10 Circles of Life

Labyrinths provide ‘a profound sense of renewal and peace.’

Story and photos by Laura Jenkins

04

Currents
The latest buzz

05

TCP Talk
Readers respond

16

Co-op News
Information plus energy and safety tips from your cooperative

25

Footnotes in Texas History
A Page of the Past
By W.F. Strong

26

TCP Kitchen
Sheet Pan Meals
By Vianney Rodriguez

30

Hit the Road
Extracurricular Activities
By Chet Garner

33

Focus on Texas
Photo Contest: Hoof and Horn

34

Observations
Off the Hook?
By Patty Moynahan

ON THE COVER
Alison Hannah walks the labyrinth at Unity of Wimberley.
Photo by Laura Jenkins
ABOVE
Mountain pink is a great plant for rock gardens.
Photo courtesy Useful Wild Plants



FINISH THIS SENTENCE

Back to school means ...

TCP Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to letters@TexasCoopPower.com or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town.

Here are some of the responses to our June prompt: **Thanks, Dad, for ...**

Never judging us and always giving us your unconditional love and attention.

ELVIRA PULIDO
MAGIC VALLEY EC
MISSION

Making me get back on the horse.

LYNNE SINGHOFF
DEEP EAST TEXAS EC
HEMPHILL

Teaching me to use your tools, believing in me and forgiving me when I messed up.

ROSE HOLLY
PEDERNALES EC
GEORGETOWN

Teaching me when I was 14 to back a trailer load full of cattle through the gate.

SHIRLEY HAMPTON
PEDERNALES EC
HORSESHOE BAY

Visit our website to see more responses.



Talkin' Texan

Not sure what took them so long, but the folks behind the official Scrabble dictionary finally added a few words to the book that have been heard in these parts for generations: guac, queso and yeehaw.

These potentially high-scoring words are among about 500 new words in the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary, which gets updated every few years.

Wreck the Record

CALL 'EM the first family of Texas Tech.

With 44 alumni in the fold, the Wuensches set a world record for most members of a family to graduate from the same university.

Francis Wuensche, from the small town of Wilson that's about 20 miles south of Lubbock, started the procession with a degree in zoology in 1953. Three generations later, Andrew Simnacher accepted the family's 44th diploma in December 2021.

And the Wuensches, many of whom are members of electric cooperatives around the state, aren't done. Three more members of the extended family enrolled as freshmen last fall.

TCP Contests and More

ENTER CONTESTS AT
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM

\$500 RECIPE CONTEST
Texas Citrus

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS
Mailboxes

TEXAS GULF SHRIMP GIVEAWAY
Two readers will each win 5 pounds of wild-caught Texas shrimp. Enter now to win. Contest ends August 31.



August 3 National Watermelon Day

Texas ranks fourth in the U.S. in watermelon production, growing 11% of the 3.4 billion pounds harvested annually. Together, Florida, Georgia, California and Texas produce three-fourths of the refreshing fruit.



JOHN FAULK

In a Whole New Light

“My wife and I just visited the Morse Museum in Florida and its large collection of Tiffany works. We can’t wait to visit the Gelman Stained Glass Museum.”

RICHARD SANTAMARIA
PEDERNALES EC
DRIPPING SPRINGS

Tongue-Tied

My maternal grandparents both immigrated to Texas from Germany and Austria in the decades before World War I [*Auf Wiedersehen*, May 2023]. My mother, born in the early 1920s, was their only child, and her first language was German. Neither my sister nor I were ever taught German.

Much later in life, I oft wondered why we were not given the gift of a second language.

John W. Palm Jr.
Hamilton County EC
Lampasas

Just Dew It

I have dewberries growing all around my house [*Crawling With Trouble*, May 2023]. I fought them for years trying to get rid of them, but you can’t. Then after harvesting some, I made a cobbler and just decided to cultivate them instead.

Sherrie Taylor
Via Facebook



CHANELLE NIBBELINK

Westward Bound

Rise Up West [April 2023] was hauntingly familiar. An ancestor moved to West around the end of the Civil War from an area that became the Czech Republic. An uncle told me they left the old country because it was involved in a civil war of its own. That they left one country due to civil war only to arrive in the U.S. with its own civil war is ironic.

Ken Konvicka
United Cooperative Services
Graford

Mockingbirds Are Mean

I regret that the mockingbird is our state bird [*Roll Out the Red Carpet*, December 2022]. Whoever put the mockingbird up for this prestigious position obviously knew nothing about the mockingbird.

The mockingbird is very aggressive and mean. On several occasions, I have been fortunate enough to intervene and save the lives of bluebirds and cardinals from mockingbirds.

Roberta McLaughlin
Heart of Texas EC
Lorena

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

TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Kelly Lankford, San Angelo

Vice Chair Neil Hesse, Muenster

Secretary-Treasurer Avan Irani, Robstown

Board Members Dale Ancell, Lubbock

Julie Parsley, Johnson City

Doug Turk, Livingston

Brandon Young, McGregor

PRESIDENT/CEO Mike Williams, Austin

COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER
SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mike Ables, Bellville • Matt Bentke, Bastrop

Marty Haught, Burleson • Gary Miller, Bryan

Zac Perkins, Hooker, Oklahoma

John Ed Shimpugh, Bonham

Rob Walker, Gilmer • Buff Whitten, Eldorado

MAGAZINE STAFF

Vice President, Communications

& **Member Services** Martin Bevins

Editor Chris Burrows

Associate Editor Tom Widlowski

Production Manager Karen Nejtek

Creative Manager Andy Doughty

Advertising Manager Elaine Sproull

Communications Specialist Jéden Clark

Communications Specialist Alex Dal Santo

Print Production Specialist Grace Fultz

Digital Media Specialist Caytlyn Phillips

Senior Communications Specialist

Jessica Ridge

Food Editor Vianney Rodriguez

Senior Designer Jane Sharpe

Proofreader Suzanne Featherston

TEXAS CO-OP POWER Volume 80, Number 2 (USPS 540-560). *Texas Co-op Power* is published monthly by Texas Electric Cooperatives. Periodical postage paid at Austin, TX, and at additional offices. TEC is the statewide association representing 76 electric cooperatives. *Texas Co-op Power's* website is TexasCoopPower.com. Call (512) 454-0311 or email editor@TexasCoopPower.com.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Subscription price is \$4.44 per year for individual members of subscribing cooperatives and is paid from equity accruing to the member. If you are not a member of a subscribing cooperative, you can purchase an annual subscription at the nonmember rate of \$7.50.

Co-op members: Please notify your co-op of address changes or other subscription requests.

POSTMASTER Send address changes to *Texas Co-op Power* (USPS 540-560), 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701. Please enclose label from this copy of *Texas Co-op Power* showing old address and key numbers.

ADVERTISING Contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251 or esproull@texas-ec.org for information about purchasing display ad space in *Texas Co-op Power* and/or in our 26 sister publications in other states. Advertisements in *Texas Co-op Power* are paid solicitations. The publisher neither endorses nor guarantees in any manner any product or company included in this publication.

COPYRIGHT All content © 2023 Texas Electric Cooperatives Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this issue or any portion of it is expressly prohibited without written permission. Willie Wirehand © 2023 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

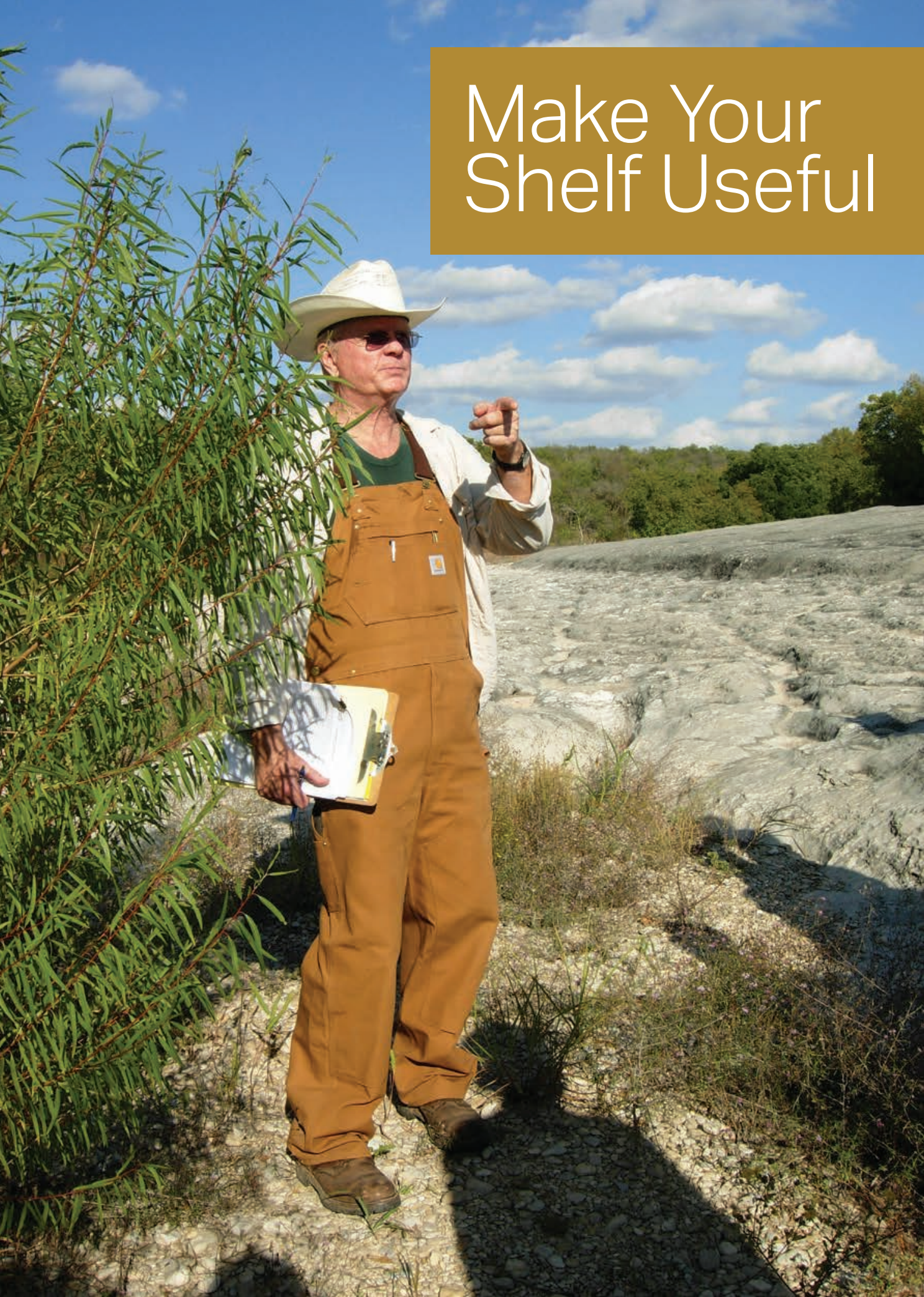


Texas Electric Cooperatives
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



American
MainStreet
Publications

Make Your Shelf Useful



BY SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS

Scooter Cheatham has dedicated his life to voluminous books that document uses for Texas' plants



YEARS AGO Scooter Cheatham asked a classroom of high school sophomores to figure out how plants play a role in everything around them. As an example, he challenged them to connect plants to a pair of scissors. The Austin students, hoping for an easy answer, contacted the manufacturer. “There are no plants in our scissors,” a representative emailed back.

The response forced the teens to do their research. Ultimately “they learned that the manufacturing of steel to make scissors requires coal,” Cheatham says. “The orange plastic handles are derived from petrochemicals. The students also realized that the company representative was as ‘plant blind’ as everyone else about the importance of plants in our lives.”

They matter so much, in fact, that Cheatham has made them his lifelong mission. Plants support our food, health and industry—even contributing to the formation of coal and petrochemicals. For more than 50 years, he and his collaborators have worked to compile the ultimate reference encyclopedia: *The Useful Wild Plants of Texas*, the Southeastern and Southwestern United States, the Southern Plains, and Northern Mexico.

Since 1995, Cheatham’s nonprofit Useful Wild Plants has published four volumes, each counting 600 or more pages and collectively weighing nearly 20 pounds. When completed, the set will include at least 20 volumes and document the economic uses of more than 4,000 plant species, both native and naturalized.

“There’s nothing else like our volumes in the world,” says Cheatham, seated at UWP’s office in East Austin. “They’re the most comprehensive, interdisciplinary treatment of plant species ever done, going back to their prehistoric uses and forward to the most recent chemistry.

“People ask if this is our passion,” adds the self-educated botanist. “I say it’s our obligation to the planet. We’ve *got* to do this, or we won’t be ready when we run out of oil and gas.

OPPOSITE Scooter Cheatham, 77, has been documenting plants since 1971. THIS PAGE, FROM TOP The sweet, slightly tart berries of an agarita, an evergreen shrub with many medicinal uses, can be made into wine and coffee. A honey-scented agarita in bloom.



The smallest single plant on our planet has more promise for our future than anything we could study in outer space.”

Whenever his time allows, Cheatham, an architect and community and regional planner by profession, returns to Cuero, where he grew up gardening, milking cows and riding horses. As a boy, he explored and hunted on his grandmother’s nearby ranch along the Guadalupe River, a portion of which he owns today. Back then, he didn’t pay much attention to the live oaks, native grasses and other plants.

That was, until 1971, when he and a pal, both students at the University of Texas, embarked on an “experimental” archaeology project. During spring break, they lived off Cheatham’s family land like Indigenous peoples once did, using tools they’d made themselves. The experience profoundly impacted Cheatham.

“For 10 days, all we ate was a possum and an armadillo,” he recalls. “Out there, we were surrounded by plants. But I knew only a few common ones, like pecans and dewberries. That’s when I realized how much we rely on plants.”

The lightbulb moment inspired a yearning to learn more about the value of flora. Back on campus, Cheatham visited botanist Marshall Johnston, who the year before had co-written and published the 1,881-page *Manual of Vascular Plants of Texas*. Cheatham asked the professor if there was a comprehensive resource on the *usefulness* of plants. “No,” Johnston told the younger man. “You should do it.”

So in 1971, at age 26, Cheatham began what would turn into a monumental, decadeslong undertaking.

Alongside the project, Cheatham, an accomplished artist and photographer, taught architecture and watercolor classes at UT for 10 years. He also led classes that taught students how to forage for wild edibles.

Plants support our food, health and industry—even contributing to the formation of coal and petrochemicals.

In 1977, a recent UT anthropology graduate named Lynn Marshall signed up for the foraging class and agreed to pay for half her course fees by volunteering with UWP. She never left. Like Cheatham, she has dedicated herself to the endeavor.

At the project’s start, compiling just the species list and project parameters took a year and a half. Then Cheatham and Johnston traveled extensively, photographing plants in various stages of life. Filing cabinets in UWP’s office contain their 350,000 slides. More filing cabinets house thousands of manila folders, each labeled by plant genus and packed with notes, printouts and research.

In 1995, Cheatham; Johnston, who has since retired; and Marshall published their first volume. Subsequent volumes followed in 2000, 2009 and 2015. They may be ordered through the UWP website at usefulwildplants.org.

The tomes are made to last. “We believe people will need them for several hundred years,” Cheatham says. “So we don’t use cheap paper that would turn yellow in 18 months.”

Altogether, the four volumes published so far document 833 species. Organized alphabetically by genus, Volume 1 begins with *Abronia* (sand verbenas) and ends with *Arundo* (giant cane). Volume 4 covers *Cenchrus* (grassburs) through *Convolvulus* (wild morning glories). Still in progress, Volume 5 will begin with *Conyza* (horseweed).

Each genus section includes species descriptions, range maps and color images. Subheadings enable readers to quickly find specific information, such as “Native American food uses,” “chemical components” and “author dye tests.”

OPPOSITE The drought-hardy damianita boasts aromatic blooms in spring and summer. FROM LEFT Prairie paintbrush blossoms attract hummingbirds and bees. A Texas redbud's young seedpods are edible.



Entries run from less than one page to dozens. For example, *Bowlesia* (Bowles parsley) is a scant page, but *Carex* (sedges)—the largest genus in Texas flora—fills 76 pages.

Most people know about grassburs. When stepped on, their spiny seedheads hurt like the blazes to pull out—hence their reputation as a detestable weed. But surprise: “Some members of the genus *Cenchrus* are highly valued as range grasses that increase the lease value of grazing lands,” according to *The Useful Wild Plants of Texas*. “Native Americans of the Southwest and prehistoric people of Texas used *Cenchrus* for food, therapy and utilitarian purposes.”

With more than a dozen volumes and thousands of entries still to publish, Cheatham hopes to recruit and train more staff.

“Lynn and I are spread extremely thin,” he says. “Right now, we’re in a phase to raise consciousness about the importance of plants and publicize what we’re doing so we can raise the funds necessary to build a team that will finish this project. With a full staff, all the volumes could be completed in seven years.”

“People need to know about Useful Wild Plants so they’ll carry it on after we’re gone,” he says. “This project belongs to the world.” ■

Putting Plants To Use

Gleaned from the pages of
The Useful Wild Plants of Texas:

Beebrush A thornless shrub with fragrant flowers. Add its fresh or dried leaves to dishes as a spice that tastes similar to oregano.

Hackberry A widespread deciduous tree that grows 50–80 feet tall. Make a toothbrush from a pencil-sized stem. Peel the bark from one end, then chew (or pound with a hammer) to spread out the fibers.

Inland sea oats A grass with drooping, oatlike seedheads. Seeds can be toasted and milled into a coarse meal. For best results, use a batter bread recipe that calls for boiling the grains before baking.

Ragweed Flowering plants best known for causing hay fever. A poultice of leaves applied to a poison ivy rash is said to ease the itch.

Trumpet creeper A woody vine with reddish-orange flowers. Collect roots to make ropes up to 30 feet long. Peel off the outer layer and boil for two to three hours in lye water, then pound with a wooden mallet to soften. Twist the strands into a half-inch-wide rope.

CIRCLES OF LIFE

Labyrinths are providing Texans with 'a profound sense of renewal and peace'



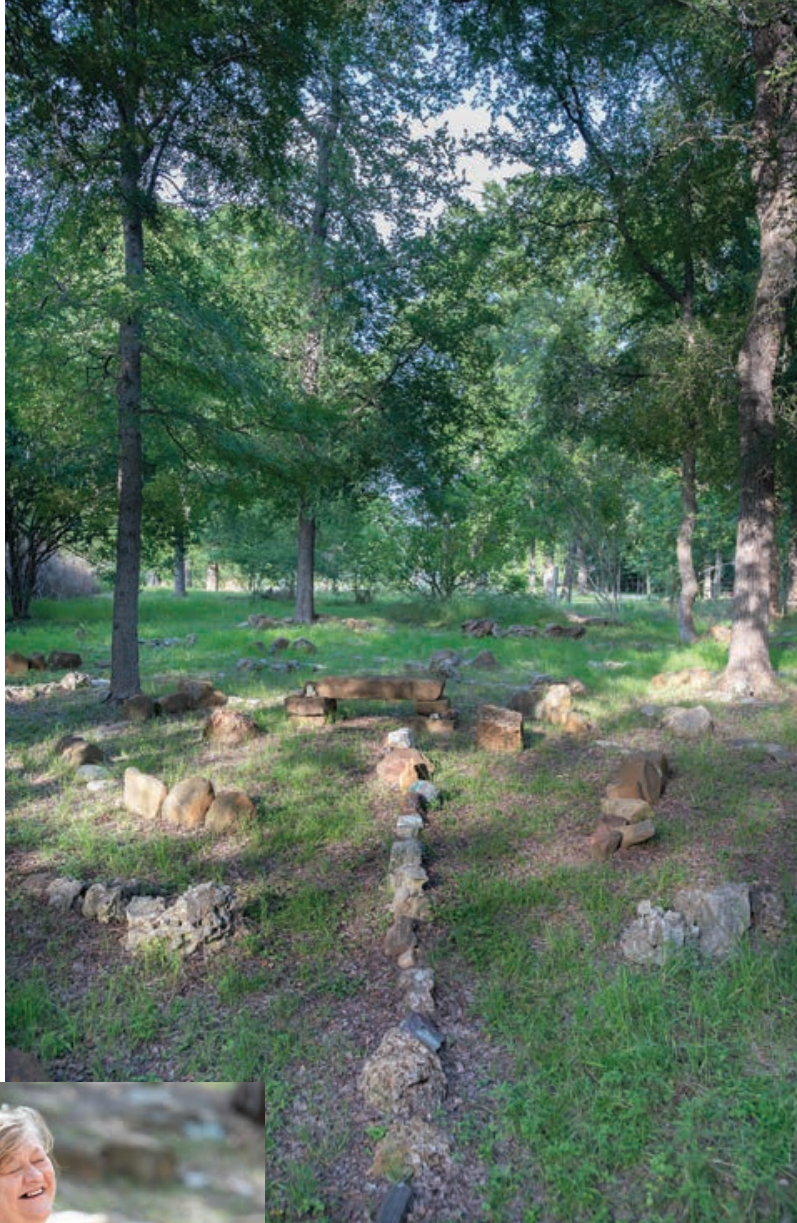
ABOUT 20 MINUTES northwest of Bastrop State Park, a labyrinth lies beneath a grove of towering cedar elms. Seven circles of sandstone, Colorado River rock and honeycomb limestone—all native to the area—comprise what’s known as a Cretan, or classical, design at Bastrop Botanical Gardens. A shepherd’s hook, the name of the long, perpendicular row that leads straight to the center of the labyrinth, is lined with an eclectic array of rocks and stones, gifts that Deena Spellman received for her birthday in 2012.

Each stone has a story. They celebrate friendships, symbolize memories and mark devastating losses. It was loss, in fact, that inspired Spellman to begin constructing the labyrinth she’d been dreaming of building for more than a decade.

“After the Bastrop County Complex Fire destroyed so many of our neighbors’ and customers’ homes in 2011, I wanted to create a space where people could find some peace and maybe a little hope,” says Spellman, the owner of Bastrop Botanical Gardens, a boutique nursery. “Since then, many people who needed a quiet place to heal have walked the labyrinth. The Cretan part gives you time to contemplate what’s on your mind while you’re walking to the center, or source. The shepherd’s hook gives you direct access. Sometimes you just need to get to source.”

Simply put, a labyrinth is a meandering path leading to a center, a geometric framework for walking, meditation and reflection. Many use it as a tool for personal and spiritual transformation. There are more than 4,500 documented labyrinths in the U.S., according to the World-Wide Labyrinth Locator.

OPPOSITE Karen Knight, a certified labyrinth facilitator, walks the labyrinth at her Ardor Wood Farm in Red Rock. ABOVE Deena Spellman created the labyrinth at Bastrop Botanical Gardens so visitors can “find some peace and maybe a little hope.”



At last count, 240 were listed in Texas—most open to the public, though a handful are private.

Many Texas labyrinths are situated at houses of worship or spiritual retreat centers, but they’re not just for religious folks. There’s a labyrinth in the meditation garden at the National Vietnam War Museum in Weatherford. The UTHealth Houston nursing school installed one

for students as a means of reducing stress. You can find labyrinths at parks, schools and retirement centers.

They’re by no means new. The oldest documented labyrinth dates to 1200 B.C. It was found in Pylos, Greece.

Many conflate labyrinths and mazes, but there’s one major difference between the two. Mazes may offer numerous possible routes to the center, some of which are dead ends. But labyrinths feature only one nonbranching route to the center. One way in, and one way out. They’re ancient archetypes—multicultural symbols that have been found on every continent except Antarctica.

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT The Rev. Mike Marsh and Brenda Faulkner, director of programs at Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas. The St. Philip's Episcopal Church labyrinth in Uvalde. Labyrinth guru Robert Ferré.



“Before we begin, I encourage people to start in a place of gratitude and to keep the three Rs in mind: releasing, receiving and returning,” Karen Knight says.

Robert Ferré, a retired labyrinth builder and author of the book *The Labyrinth Revival: A Personal Account*, says labyrinths went from being archetypal symbols to walkable structures sometime in the Middle Ages.

“Originally labyrinths were small drawings and illustrations in manuscripts,” says Ferré, who lives in San Antonio and has designed more than 1,100 labyrinths worldwide. “At some point somebody decided to build one large enough that they could walk around in. It became a symbol you could embody.

“I think labyrinths reflect a spiritual need in a society that has wandered into living too shallowly, or on the surface of things,” he says. “They signal our need to go deeper.”

Using a labyrinth as a means of self-reflection is something Karen Knight knows a lot about. She’s a certified labyrinth facilitator and co-owner of Ardor Wood Farm in Red Rock. She became interested in labyrinths in 2011 after visiting Chartres Cathedral in France. Her husband, Graham

Pierce, built a labyrinth in the cathedral’s style at their farm for Knight’s 50th birthday, a gift that their camping and retreat guests often utilize.

Knight also offers “labyrinth magic” experiences, wherein she guides people through the labyrinth using the Veriditas method, which she learned from one of the world’s foremost labyrinth authorities, the Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress.

“Before we begin, I encourage people to start in a place of gratitude and to keep the three Rs in mind: releasing, receiving and returning,” Knight says. “You’re releasing on the way in during your walk. Perhaps there’s a specific thing you’re letting go of, or maybe you’re just releasing the busy chatter in your head. You’re receiving and staying open while you’re in the middle, and as you return you’re taking your experience home.

“I feel like it’s a moving meditation,” she says. “People need a pause. We’re often busy, depleted or distressed, and labyrinths can bring a profound sense of renewal and peace.”



A suspended sculpture by Lewis deSoto creates a labyrinth in shadow on the University of Texas at San Antonio's downtown campus.

to cope with trauma and grief. They've committed to a presence of at least five years in the small town. Brenda Faulkner, the director of programs, moved to Uvalde to take the job—not only because her son, daughter-in-law and two grandsons live there but also because she wanted to help the community heal.

She had used labyrinths as a therapeutic tool for years, so using the one at St. Philip's with some of the children came naturally to her.

"I've found that walking the sacred path, which is what Mike calls their labyrinth, serves a couple of purposes," Faulkner says. "One is that it gets us outdoors. We have a lot of beautiful days in Uvalde. At the beginning of the path I say, 'I'm old, so you're going to have to go slower for me so I can keep up with you.' And as we walk, we talk. It's also great

because it's a very physical thing. As they're moving and we're talking, they're often not even aware that the therapeutic process is going on.

"What's interesting about walking a labyrinth," she says, "is that just about the time you think you're done, you're only a quarter done, which kind of correlates with the grief process."

Marsh has observed the same thing.

"There's a metaphor in the walking," he says. "If you follow the path, you're not going to get lost. You may get disoriented because it looks like you're getting almost to the center and then you're way out on the periphery again. But the discipline is to follow the path. Don't overthink it." ■

THE REV. MIKE MARSH was sold on the benefits of labyrinths long before he became the rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Uvalde in 2005. Nine years later, he and Ferré designed and built one for the church. It was a gift to the community, and now it's a place of respite in the aftermath of the 2022 Robb Elementary School shooting.

"I've seen many individuals and families linger there over the years," Marsh says.

San Antonio-based Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas uses a church building that is adjacent to the labyrinth to serve children in the community struggling

Special Offer for New Customers Only

☒ **YES!** Please send me the following:

QTY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
1	Last-Year 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar (Limit 1)	\$39.95
1	Morgan Silver Dollar Booklet	FREE!
	Shipping	FREE!
	Sales Tax	FREE!
	TOTAL	\$39.95

ORDER MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 30 DAYS

☐ Check payable to Littleton Coin Co.
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card #: Exp. Date /

Name Please print clearly

Address Apt#

City State Zip

E-Mail

Mail to: **Littleton Coin Company**
 Littleton Coin Company
Offer Code: 6ZR464
 1309 Mt. Eustis Rd
 Littleton NH 03561-3737
 Serving Collectors Since 1945

Yours FREE!

Order within 30 days and get this special **Morgan Silver Dollars** booklet **FREE!**



OWN a Genuine 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar

Over 100 Years old...

*Regularly \$87.00...
Now Only \$39.95*



Now you can own a 1921 Morgan silver dollar from the last year of the classic series! Big, heavy and handsome - with over ¾ of an ounce of 90% silver - genuine Morgan dollars like these were struck in silver from old western mines. Once used by rough and ready frontiersmen, today Morgan dollars are a vanishing legacy of America's past - genuine history you can hold in your hand!

Never to be minted again!

Although millions of these silver coins were melted in the 1900s, the 1921 Morgan - from the final year of the classic series - survived. Never to be minted again, this historic Morgan dollar can be yours for just \$39.95 (regularly \$87.00) - **SAVE OVER 50% off** regular prices! Order today and get FREE shipping

to your home! **You'll also receive a handpicked trial selection of fascinating coins from our No-Obligation Coins-on-Approval Service**, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins - return balance within 15 days - with option to cancel at any time.

Order now - before they vanish forever!

www.LittletonCoin.com/Specials

Have U.S. Coins or Paper Money to Sell? Get Top Dollar!

We Make it Quick and Easy.
 Littletoncoin.com/CoinsToSell
**Currently purchasing U.S. currency within the U.S. only.*

Due to fluctuations in the coin market, prices and limits are subject to change.

Offer Code: 6ZR464



If North Texas Is Your Market, We've Got You Covered.

Target customers close to home with the North Texas advertising section of *Texas Co-op Power*. Be part of a statewide magazine—without the statewide cost. Call or email today.



NORTH TEXAS AUDIENCE
 Circulation 590,500
 Readership 1,358,150

TexasCoopPower

Contact Elaine Sproull at (512) 486-6251 or advertising@TexasCoopPower.com



Hit the Road Event Calendar

Fairs, festivals, food and family fun! Pick your region. Pick your month. Pick your event.

With hundreds of events across Texas listed every month, TexasCoopPower.com has something for you.

TCP Plan now
TexasCoopPower.com/events



AUGUST

is National Replacement Window Month at Renewal by Andersen*

Call before August 31!

Buy one window or door, get one
40% OFF¹
plus

Take an **EXTRA \$400**
off your entire order¹

\$0

Down

0

Payments

0%

Interest

for 1 year²



RENEWAL
by **ANDERSEN**
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Why did we declare August **National Replacement Window Month**?

Because even though the summer is hot, that doesn't mean you have to live with the heat inside your home, too. Replacing just a few windows or a door now can help make your home cooler during the summer—and warmer in the winter.

Why Renewal by Andersen?

- Renewal by Andersen is the full-service replacement window division of Andersen, a 120-year-old family-owned company with a **reputation for excellence in window and door craftsmanship**.
- Our exclusive composite **Fibrex® windows** are not only beautiful, they're remarkably strong, offer superior energy efficiency and require minimal maintenance.³
- Our factory-trained **Certified Master Installers have years of experience installing only windows and doors**, and they'll treat you and your home with the utmost respect.



Call or scan the code to book your FREE Window & Door Diagnosis



RENEWAL
by **ANDERSEN**
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Scan to
self-schedule
your
appointment



Austin

512-298-1858

San Antonio

210-961-9990

West Texas

432-257-3640

Dallas/Fort Worth

469-606-5229

TopWindowSolution.com

¹Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 4 or more. Buy 2 windows or doors and get the second 2 windows or doors, of equal or lesser value, 40% off – applied to lowest priced window and/or door products in purchase. \$400 discount valid during first appointment only. Cannot be combined with other offers. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 8/31/23 with the purchase then occurring on or before 9/10/23. ²No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. ³See limited warranty for details at <https://www.renewalbyandersen.com/homeowner-help/warranty>. *National Replacement Window Month is not a Congressionally-approved designation. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under Central Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Austin and San Antonio. North Texas Windows & Doors LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2023 Andersen Corporation. ©2023 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

BACK TO SCHOOL

ELECTRIC CO-OPS CONTINUALLY LEARN TO IMPROVE SERVICE FOR MEMBERS

It's a new school year, and students of all ages are getting ready for a fresh start. Kindergarteners and college students—and all students in between—will crack open books to build their skills, widen their perspectives and gain new knowledge.

In much the same way, Tri-County Electric Cooperative is continually learning the best ways to implement technology and processes that improve electric service, reliability and safety and, in turn, enhance the quality of life for the members we serve. 35756001



Tri-County Electric Co-op is tapped into energy sector trends in an industry that's rapidly changing. Innovations in technology and fuel types are increasing consumer demands and expectations. People are looking for more ways to manage their energy use with smart technologies, and folks expect more convenient payment methods—whether through automatic bill pay, online or through TCEC Connect, our mobile app.

We're always looking into opportunities to make life easier for our members. At the same time, we never lose sight of our top priority—laid out by our founders more than 80 years ago: providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity to the communities we serve.

Automated meter reading automatically collects energy consumption data and transfers it from the electric meter to the co-op. Because this information can be collected remotely, it enhances our system's efficiency, helps control costs and improves work processes.

Advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) takes this tech one step further. This integrated system of smart meters, communications networks and data management systems enables two-way communication between your cooperative and its members' meters. In the event of an outage, AMI helps

to distinguish between events that impact a single home and something more widespread.

This distinction is critical because resolving these issues requires very different processes. Two-way communication is integral to AMI because it provides a means to verify that power has been restored after an outage. However, one of the biggest benefits of improved metering technologies, especially for outages caused by extreme weather, is pinpointing the outage location, which helps to reduce risk for crews out on the road during severe weather.

In addition to providing essential information during major outages, Tri-County Electric Co-op analyzes AMI data for anomalies including faults, damaged meters and energy theft. Detecting these problems early helps our cooperative save money and improves reliability for the community.

Tri-County Electric Co-op continues to watch industry trends to provide the best service possible to our members. It is in our mission to provide safe, reliable, and competitive electric and customer service, and monitoring member feedback helps us fulfill our duty. Our industry is ever changing, and we will change with it to make sure we take care of our members. This includes maintaining our electric lines, and providing first-class, prompt service across the co-op.

For Tri-County Electric Co-op, our "school year" is never over. We'll continue to learn from our members about their priorities, and we'll continue to study and research the issues so that we can better serve you—now and well into the future.





MEMBER ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Tri-County Electric Cooperative will be attending community events in our service territory in an effort to reach more of our membership. This will provide you with one-on-one access with employees across departments in your co-op. Win bill credits and take home gifts when you visit our bright red tent and register. Bring the event ticket below to our booth and you will take home a member-exclusive gift.

Check out the upcoming events below and find an event near you!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Sept. 9

Main Street
Azle, Texas

Wild West
Festival

Sept. 16

Town Square
Springtown, Texas



Oct. 13-15

Main Street
Southlake, Texas

2023 ELECTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

DIRECTOR ELECTION

Members have the opportunity to vote on three director seats this year – districts 1, 2 and 4. The following six candidates will be on the ballot next month:

DISTRICT 1

Kevin Ingle, incumbent

DISTRICT 2

Margaret Koprek, incumbent

DISTRICT 4

Jerry Walden, incumbent
David Miller, nomination candidate
Julie Walden, petition candidate
Stan Mickle, petition candidate

Candidate biographies start on the next page. Members can join us for the Director Candidate Forum on Monday, August 21 at 6:00 p.m. to learn more about each candidate.

Ballots will be mailed on the back of the September *Texas Co-op Power* magazine, as well as emailed to members with active email addresses on file in our system. For the past three years, we have offered the traditional mail-in voting and online voting using the credentials on your ballot and are bringing back email balloting for your convenience. Members can expect your ballot in your email inbox on September 1. 7962100001

The election opens September 1 and closes September 27 at 5 p.m. Voting in the director election is one of your rights and responsibilities as a co-op member-owner. Members who vote by the deadline will receive a \$25 bill credit for participating and will be entered into the door prize drawing at Annual Meeting. The \$25 bill credit is our thank you for taking the time to invest in your co-op.

\$25

BILL CREDIT

Every member who votes in this year's election will receive a \$25 bill credit!

ANNUAL MEETING

Tri-County Electric Co-op's 84th Annual Meeting of the Members is Monday, October 16, at 7 p.m. We are hosting the meeting virtually for your convenience. Members can watch online or listen by phone – from your home, office, car or wherever you may be.

This year's Annual Meeting will include a financial update, results from the director election, a co-op update and door prizes. The virtual platform paired with the flexible voting methods allows members to participate in a way that meets your needs. After all, what can be better than earning a \$25 bill credit through voting in the election and waiting to hear your name as a door prize winner? The Annual Meeting is our way of showing appreciation to you, our members.

**84TH ANNUAL
MEETING
OF THE
MEMBERS**

OCTOBER 16
HELD VIRTUALLY AT 7 P.M.

2023 DIRECTOR ELECTION: CANDIDATES

MEMBERS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY to vote on three director seats this year – districts 1, 2, and 4. Six candidates met the qualifications in the director election and will be on the ballot this September.



DISTRICT 1
KEVIN INGLE
INCUMBENT

Kevin Ingle was appointed to the Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors in February 2021 to fill the vacant urban position.

Ingle completed training requirements for his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Ingle works at GM Financial as the Vice President of Servicing Analytics, where he leads a team of professional data analysts, serves on several committees, and is active in the employee mentoring program. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Tulsa and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Ingle maintains an active role in his community. Currently, he serves as an industry advisor to the Master's of Business Analytics and Data Science program at Oklahoma State University and volunteers for the Salvation Army Angel Tree project as well as with Junior Achievement. He previously served as the president of his community homeowners association and previously served as the president of the Azle Municipal Development District.



DISTRICT 2
MARGARET KOPREK
INCUMBENT

Margaret Koprek has served on the Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors since March 2021. Currently, she serves as the board secretary/treasurer.

Koprek completed training requirements for her Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Koprek works at BNSF Railway as director of Learning & Development. She began her career at BNSF Railway in 2007 with various positions in Operations and Data Analytics and holds a bachelor's degree and master's degree from Texas A&M University, and a master's in industrial engineering from St. Mary's University. Professionally, she serves on BNSF's Women's Network Executive Board.

Koprek actively participates in her community, including support of the church and school at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Keller and the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Director Candidate Forum

The director forum will be virtual for all members. Take this time to get to know your director candidates and ask them questions before the voting period begins.

Join the Forum

Stream online: tcectexas.com/director-elections

Listen by phone: 855.710.6229

For more details regarding this year's director forum, please visit tcectexas.com/director-elections.

MONDAY
AUG. 21
AT 6PM

2023 DIRECTOR ELECTION: CANDIDATES



DISTRICT

**JERRY
WALDEN**

INCUMBENT

4

I am proud and grateful to be a 5th generation farmer and rancher of Parker County. I was raised in the small community of Authon on my family's farm where we produced peanuts, hay, and ran a cow-calf operation. Growing up on the farm taught me early on the values of hard work, problem solving, and conservation, just to name a few. Professionally, I have owned several construction-related businesses ranging from property improvement to custom home building.

I have been a TCEC member since 1974 and began serving as a director on the board in September of 1999. At that time our co-op had approximately 30,000 meters and today we have over 131,000. One of my goals as director has been to preserve the small business charm of TCEC, while providing the guidance necessary to allow it to grow to our ever-increasing needs. I obtained my Credential Cooperative Director certification through our national association, NRECA, and served in leadership positions within our broader cooperative network. Throughout my time as a director, I have served as the vice president and secretary/treasurer, as well as chair of board committees.

With the continuing growth of TCEC, as well as the state of Texas, we must make strategic decisions today to ensure sustainable and reliable electricity for the future. During my years as a director, many challenges and opportunities have faced TCEC. I addressed each with honesty and integrity, striving to make the best decisions for the benefit of the member-owners. I possess the years of knowledge that only experience can provide and, equally important, the ability to adapt to present and future needs.

In the community, I served on the Garner ISD school board for 10 years, including three as board president. Additionally, I have served on local advisory committees and community boards.

My wife Ronda and I have 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandson. With our future generations in mind, I have a strong desire to be a good steward of our natural resources and environment. Natural gas is currently the most economical and reliable source of electricity generation, yet I am committed to the continued exploration, development, and use of alternative natural sources of energy production, like wind, solar, and other technologies yet to be discovered. In my opinion, whatever the future holds for electricity generation, it must be reliable, sustainable, and economical.

I have a broad knowledge of the electricity industry, from generation through transmission to your home. As your director I will continue to use common sense in providing leadership to TCEC. I am confident I am the best candidate to serve you as District 4 director. Thank you for bestowing your trust in me to represent you in the past. It would be an honor and privilege to serve you for the next three years.



DISTRICT

**DAVID
MILLER**

NOMINATION
CANDIDATE

4

David Miller is a lifelong resident of North Texas who carries tenured experience in municipal government and with non-profit organizations.

David started his career in law enforcement in the mid-1980s as a patrol officer for the Keller Police Department. Since that time, he has held the positions of Chief of Police, Director of Public Safety, Deputy City Manager, and City Administrator for the cities of Trophy Club, Kennedale, Forest Hill, Bedford, and Springtown. David is currently the City Administrator and Director of Public Safety for the City of Springtown where he has served since November 2017. In addition to his work in municipal government, David serves on the board of the United Way of Parker County, serves on the Equine Advisory Board for Weatherford College, and is the Chair of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement's advisory board for Parker County. These posts are in addition to numerous other leadership roles for a myriad of local, state, and national professional organizations related to city management and law enforcement. David has done extensive work with state legislators throughout his tenure through the Texas Municipal League and other professional organizations. He is well versed in the legislative processes including but not limited to testifying in front of state subcommittees.

Outside of these efforts, David, along with his wife, Teresa, operates a therapeutic equine facility for children and adults with physical, intellectual, education and emotional disabilities, as well as for veterans, and those recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. Stars and Strides Stables is located in Peaster and utilizes therapeutic riding to aid in physical therapy, emotional growth and learning. Many riders experience a connection to the horse that few sports can create. Not only does this help raise their self-esteem but it also teaches them essential skills. It improves balance, creates trust and creates a friendship between rider and horse. The Millers established Stars and Strides in 2012 after being inspired by their daughter, Courtney, who experienced immense growth using equine-assisted therapy to overcome the challenges of her disability, Kabuki syndrome.

David is a longtime member of Northside Baptist Church where he continues to serve as a Bible teacher. David has been a resident of Parker County for more than 18 years and resides with his wife Teresa and their youngest daughter Courtney in Peaster.

2023 DIRECTOR ELECTION: CANDIDATES



DISTRICT

**JULIE
WALDEN**

PETITION
CANDIDATE

4

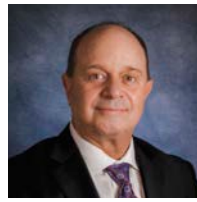
Julie Smith Walden believes in giving back to her community by being involved in various organizations including the Millsap Heritage Society, Millsap Ex-students Organization, Millsap Neighborhood Home and Garden Club and Millsap Alumni Foundation Board of Directors. Julie is a retired educator, after teaching Technology and coaching for 34 years. During her tenure as an educator, she was proud to establish the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Peaster Middle School, she founded the Pee Wee Cheerleaders at Millsap, was Director and coach of Millsap Little Dribblers, Directed the Dance Team, and served as a PTO Officer.

Julie is an honor graduate of Millsap High School where she was involved in sports, cheerleading as well as several academic organizations. After High School, she attended Tarleton State University, graduating Magna Cum Laude and was inducted into the Alpha Chi Honor Society; all while working part-time and raising her two children. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education, with a major in Exercise and Sport Studies and a minor in Business. Julie holds a Real Estate License and has worked as a Realtor and office manager for a Real Estate firm. She is a member of Texas Association of Sports Officials and officiates Middle and High School Volleyball.

Walden attends Greenwood Baptist Church and is a member of the Women's Bible Study Group. She founded Dedicated Divas, a Bible group of approximately 500 women. Julie shares the word of God in a daily Bible verse with each of the members.

Julie is extremely proud of her children, Michael Barnes and Brandee Pemberton. Michael is Coordinator of Girls Athletics, Coach and Educator at Miles ISD. His wife Nicole is an educator and coach as well. They have three children. Brandee Pemberton, M.D., practices medicine at Star Family Medicine in Weatherford. Her husband Brian is an airline pilot based at DFW Airport. They have one son.

In her free time, Julie enjoys watching her grandchildren participate in sports and spends as much time with family as possible. Julie and her husband participate in Parker County Sheriff's Posse activities as well as other equine events. She and her husband enjoy ranch life and preserving our western heritage. They raise cattle in western Parker County. She is blessed with having the opportunity to be the caregiver of her 87 year young mother.



DISTRICT

**STAN
MICKLE**

PETITION
CANDIDATE

4

Stan Mickle is seeking a Board of Director position for District 4 at Tri-County Electric. Mickle aspires to bring new vision, fresh ideas, and quality leadership to the Tri-County Electric Board of Directors. He looks forward to the available training and conference networking to expand our local opportunities.

Mickle (57) is a Co-Founder and Partner of RXSoil Inc. RXSoil is a specialty chemical company providing sustainable remediation solutions to the oil & gas industry. Prior to RXSoil, Mickle spent 19 years in real estate and golf course development by designing, building, and operating Canyon West Golf Club.

Through his early years Stan was heavily involved in the equine reproductive industry. Mickle earned his Bachelor of Science from Tarleton State University with emphasis on Equine Reproductive Physiology. The Mickle family handled many of the famous legacy race, cutting and pleasure horses for almost four decades.

Mickle has lived in Parker County and has been a Tri-County user since 1974. He has been involved in many community efforts and fundraisers over the years.

THIS IS HOME

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

We asked our members to tell us what home means to them through photographs. Here are our top submissions.

"THE RED CHAIR" BY MARK CAMPBELL

"I'm the 3rd generation to own this metal chair that's 60-plus years old. The Red Chair has been a nice place to sit and ponder for many Campbells."



"TEXAS BLUE"

BY KIM FLATT

"Home is Texas in the Spring. Nothing like a patch of true Texas Bluebonnets."

"MY ANGELS"

BY SHONDA POWELL

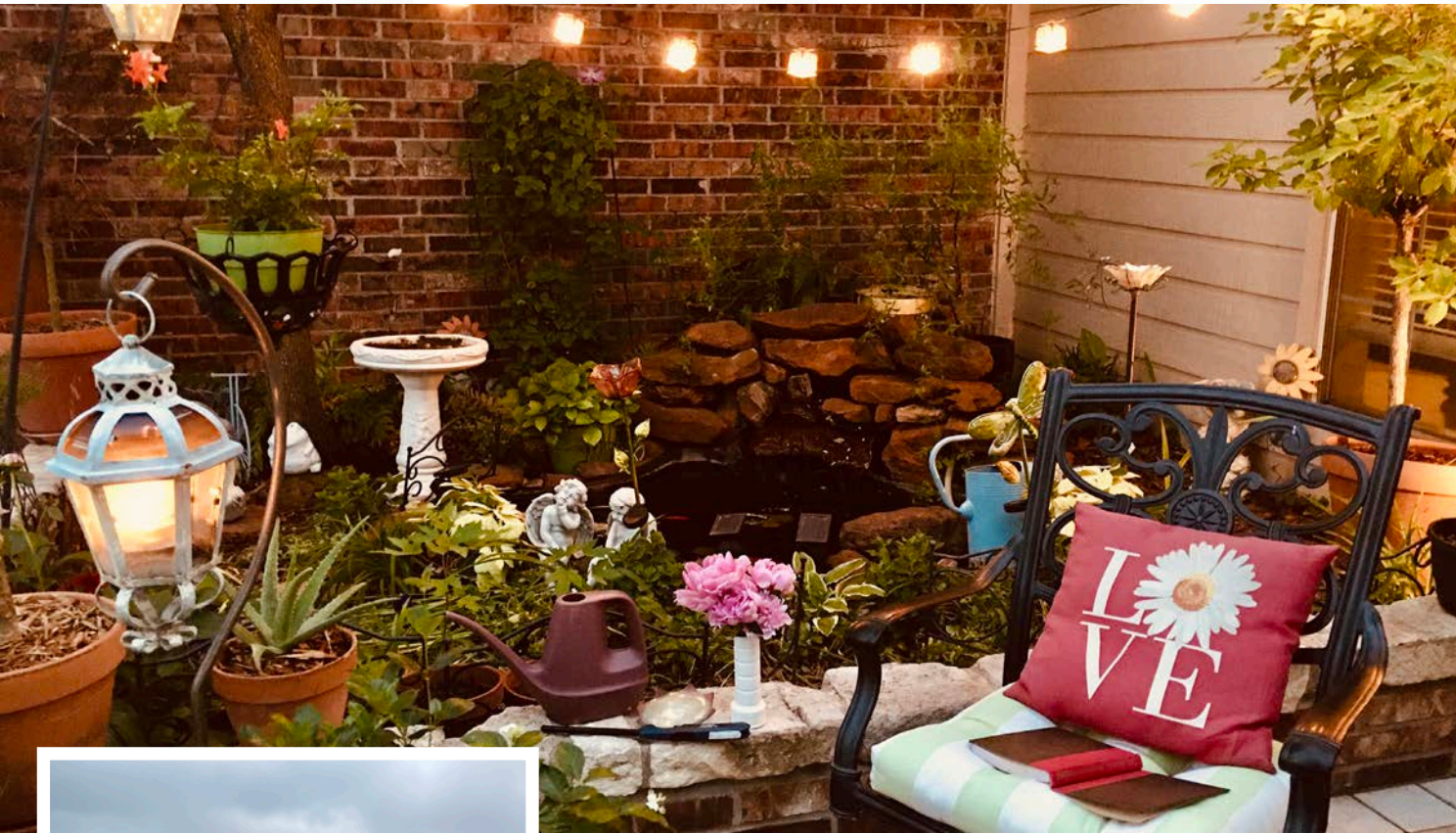
"My dad put these on my bird pole - in memory of each of my sons so they are always watching over me. This is my home, walking out seeing it every day."



"SERENITY"

BY DEBRA ARCA

"My quiet corner of my home."



"FRANCES AND THE FLYING T"

BY PAUL WYNNE

"Frances Lamb looks out on the pastures where four generations of her family have raised cattle on the family ranch."



"KITTY AND FLOWERS"

BY JOYCE GUTIERREZ

"Love blooms in a happy home."



"SUNSET"

BY WENDY HASELOFF

"This is a photo from our backyard sunset. There's nothing better than a Texas sunset!"

BRIGHT

School sheds light on energy conservation

STORY BY BOB BUCKEL, COMMUNICATIONS CONTENT SPECIALIST

IDEAS



Arguing, they say, usually generates more heat than light. The goal of education is just the opposite: Lots of light, with as little heat as possible. 800944958

Fittingly, light plays a major role in the classrooms of Aledo ISD.

Aledo is among the fastest-growing school districts in Texas, and its voters approved major bond issues in 2019 and 2023. One of the challenges they face is building schools that meet students' needs far into the future while minimizing the impact of energy bills.

When it comes to measures that reduce electricity use, home and business owners, like students, can learn a few things from the schools.

Architect Joshua Cogburn, AIA, of the Fort Worth-based Huckabee Architects, and Chris Campbell, Aledo ISD's chief facilities and construction officer, walked us through the one-year-old McAnally Middle School campus at the start of the summer. The school, powered by Tri-County Electric Cooperative, was built to house 1,200 students in grades 6-8.

It exemplifies the thinking and technology that goes into a 21st-century school. Education is paramount, but energy efficiency is also a prime consideration.

HARNESSING LIGHT

Before you walk through the door, you can see how light is used in the building's façade.

"There are awnings on a lot of windows, or we have recessed the windows into a pocket," Cogburn said. "We're shading those windows – not leaving them directly exposed to sunlight."

The result is lots of natural light inside, but not much heat.

The low-E glass contains coatings that reflect infrared and ultraviolet light.

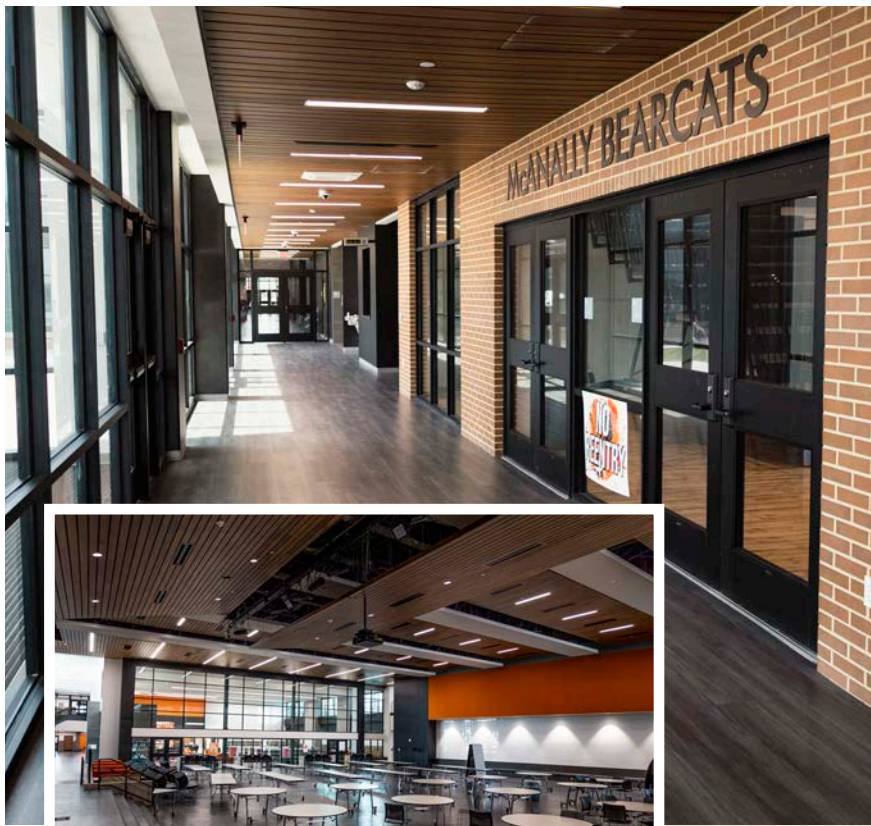
"Our goal was that it's a shaded light coming in," Cogburn said.

Classrooms are equipped with motion sensors that turn lights off when no one is around. Those are becoming more common in businesses and homes, but the school takes it a step further. "Light-harvesting" daylight sensors adjust the classroom's lights, lowering them in zones near the windows, to make maximum use of the natural light.

And all the lights are LED, which uses far less power than conventional lighting. 800753498

"Since it's a new building, we don't have any historic utility bills," Campbell said. "But compared to some of our older facilities, I would assume we're saving a lot just from that."





THE TAKEAWAY

If you're a taxpayer in Aledo ISD, you probably appreciate that the school district is spending as little of your money as possible powering the schools. But what are the lessons for everyone else? There are several:

- Get as much natural light in your home as possible, but –
- Use awnings, trees or other structures to assure that it comes in shaded.
- Install motion-sensor light switches wherever possible.
- Use LED lighting as much as possible.
- Control those thermostats.
- Stop air leaks.
- Insulate walls and ceilings, and
- Upgrade your HVAC system if it's outdated.

To get control of your bill, it's important to know your energy use and what's behind it. Whether you're a school with 1,200 kids or a mom with three, if you're a Tri-County Electric Co-op member you already have a high-tech meter that can tell you a lot.

Download the TCEC Connect app, or go to tcectexas.com and sign up for daily usage texts or emails. If you need help, one of our friendly, knowledgeable member services representatives can put you on the road to understanding and controlling your electricity use.

Energy enlightenment, it turns out, is pretty cool – but not too cool for school.

KEEPING THE HEAT DOWN

But light is only part of the energy equation. Heating and cooling use most of the power, and the school's new equipment is state-of-the-art. All the outside HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) units have energy recovery wheels that recycle exhaust air to pre-condition the incoming air and lower energy use.

Another key component is a control system that allows the district to monitor electricity use throughout the building and adjust where needed. 800824307

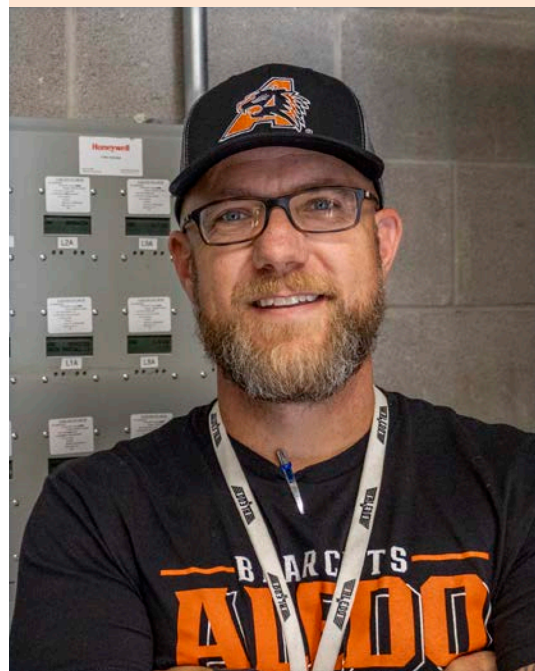
"The energy metering system gives us trend data," Campbell said. "We designed the building with a lot of assumptions, but if the demand doesn't actually meet that, we can downsize a transformer five years from now to something more efficient."

As for adjustments, the campus thermostat is on a set-point.

"We don't have it where you can be on 68° and I can be on 78° and she can be on 62°," Campbell said. "We have a set point, and people can wear long sleeves or short sleeves."

During our tour the office, where the principal was working, was comfortable. But with the kids gone for the summer, the rest of the school was around 80°.

The exterior walls have at least R-19 insulation. And if Campbell's recommendation is followed, future Aledo ISD buildings will have highly reflective roofs to further reduce heat. 7000066507



Right: Aledo ISD's chief facilities and construction officer, Chris Campbell, shows off the energy metering system at McAnally Middle School on Old Weatherford Road.

Tod Freeman

I work for you



When you ask Hank “Tod” Freeman how he’s doing, you’ll always get, “Better than I deserve,” and, if you’re lucky, a growly laugh that bubbles up from his boots.

Freeman came to work at Tri-County Electric Co-op in 2022 and quickly earned his journeyman classification. With 40 years’ experience working for contractors, he leads a crew in the Keller district.

“I chose Tri-County,” he said. “I wouldn’t work for just any co-op,” he said. 8002215901

A native of Oregon, he started power line work in Odessa, Texas in 1982. He worked in Johnson County, did some work for Oncor, then started working

on Tri-County’s lines in 2005.

“I worked in Keller, then I went to Azle,” he said. “Derek Bisette is the reason I came to work here. I was fooling with him one day and he said, ‘Man, if you’re serious about it then you need to come apply. We’ve got a job for you.’”

Freeman can reel off a lot of Tri-County names: Carl Herridge to Kevin Helton and Kevin Mooney, back to Kenneth Williams, Butch Cox and Slocum Katrycz. Even though Bisette recruited him to work in Azle, Keller was closer for the longtime Arlington resident, and needed help just as badly.

Either way, Tod “just liked being around these Tri-County guys.”

“I couldn’t work around a better bunch of people,” he said. “I didn’t come in here with an attitude of ‘I know it all’ – I came in here with respect. I gave them the respect they deserve, and I got it back.”

Freeman recently returned from the Gilmer area, where he was helping the Upshur Rural Electric Co-op recover from storm damage. Even off-duty, he spends most of his time in community service – making up for being “a knucklehead” as a young man. 8001055502

“When I say, ‘Better than I deserve’ I mean that,” he said. “What I deserve is to be locked up or covered up. But it’s all fun now,” he said. “Life is grand today.”

Check your eligibility and apply for financial assistance regarding the Brazos Financing Rider by visiting brazoshardshipfund.com or calling 844.770.8549.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

CONTACT US

200 Bailey Ranch Road
Aledo, TX 76008
Phone 817-444-3201
Web tcectexas.com

President/CEO

Darryl Schriver

Board of Directors

Max Waddell, District 9 - Chairman
John Killough, District 6 - Vice Chairman
Margaret Koprek, District 2 - Secretary/Treasurer
Kevin Ingle, District 1
Jorden Wood, District 3
Jerry A. Walden, District 4
Steve V. Harris, District 5
Sommer Portwood, District 7
Michael Sivertsen, District 8

24/7

Outage Reporting

For information and to report outages, please contact us.

Online: oms.tcectexas.com
App: TCEC Connect
Phone: 817-444-3201
Text: OUTAGE to 25069

ABOUT TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OP

Tri-County Electric Co-op owns and maintains more than 9,900 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 105,000 members in Archer, Baylor, Denton, Foard, Haskell, Hood, Jack, King, Knox, Palo Pinto, Parker, Stonewall, Tarrant, Throckmorton, Wilbarger, and Wise counties.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Aledo

200 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo 76008

Azle

600 NW Parkway, Azle 76020

Granbury

1623 Weatherford Highway, Granbury 76048

Keller

4900 Keller-Hicks Road, Fort Worth 76244

Seymour

419 N. Main, Seymour 76380

IT PAYS TO STAY INFORMED

Find your account number in pages 16-23 of *Texas Co-op Power*, and you will receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed above and make them aware of your discovery!

VISIT US ONLINE

tcectexas.com
Facebook.com/TCECTexas

STAY *Cool* DURING AUGUST HEAT

CHILL THE MEAL PLAN

Instead of baking, broiling, boiling, sauteing, or frying every night, opt for chopping fresh veggies, making colorful salads and satisfying your family's hunger with healthy raw foods that will fill them up and give your stove and oven a break. Cold desserts? That's the easy part. You can't go wrong with sorbet or ice cream straight from the freezer.

2



SEAL LEAKS & CRACKS

You'll find them all over your home – around windows, doors, and electrical and cable outlets. It's easy to caulk and weatherstrip, and it's an activity you can do with your kids as you team them to use energy responsibly.

4

TAKE COOL SHOWERS

If your house isn't cold – and there's no reason it should be, even with the air conditioner on – ease up on the hot showers. A cool shower will lower your body temperature and get you just as clean.

1

FILTER THE SUN

Install solar screens or window films on east- and west-facing windows so you can keep the heat out while still allowing light in.

3

SCHEDULE A CHECKUP

Even if you skipped your air conditioner's spring maintenance, go ahead and schedule it now. Your HVAC tech can tell you if your air conditioning unit is running efficiently – and can tweak it so it does. It's important to raise the thermostat a bit during the summer – but also to make sure the cool air that does come into the home gets there efficiently.

5

Brand New for 2023!

2023 Pure Silver Dollars
from FIVE Countries

ADDED this Year! 2023
British Silver Britannia

This 2023 Set Includes
Two "Firsts" and a "Last"!

5 Countries,
5 Pure Silver
Coins!

Your Silver Passport to Travel the World

The 5 Most Popular Pure Silver Coins on Earth in One Set

Travel the globe, without leaving home—with this set of the world's five most popular pure silver coins. Newly struck for 2023 in one ounce of fine silver, each coin will arrive in Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) condition. Your excursion includes stops in the United States, Canada, South Africa, China and Great Britain.

We've Done the Work for You with this Extraordinary 5-Pc. World Silver Coin Set

Each of these coins is recognized for its breathtaking beauty, and for its stability even in unstable times, since each coin is backed by its government for weight, purity and legal-tender value.

2023 American Silver Eagle: The Silver Eagle is the most popular coin in the world, with its iconic Adolph Weinman Walking Liberty obverse backed by Emily Damstra's Eagle Landing reverse. Struck in 99.9% fine silver at the U.S. Mint.

2023 Canada Maple Leaf: A highly sought-after bullion coin since 1988, this 2023 issue includes the **FIRST** and likely only use of a transitional portrait, of the late Queen Elizabeth II. These are also expected to be the **LAST** Maple Leafs to bear Her Majesty's effigy. Struck in high-purity 99.99% fine silver at the Royal Canadian Mint.

2023 South African Krugerrand: The Krugerrand continues to be the best-known, most respected numismatic coin brand in the world. 2023 is the Silver Krugerrand's 6th year of issue. Struck in 99.9% fine silver at the South African Mint.

2023 China Silver Panda: 2023 is the 40th anniversary of the first silver Panda coin, issued in 1983. China Pandas are noted for their heart-warming one-year-only designs. Struck in 99.9% fine silver at the China Mint.

2023 British Silver Britannia: One of the Royal Mint's flagship coins, this 2023 issue is the **FIRST** in the Silver Britannia series to carry the portrait of King Charles III, following the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. Struck in 99.9% fine silver.

Exquisite Designs Struck in Precious Silver

These coins, with stunningly gorgeous finishes and detailed designs that speak to their country of origin, are sure to hold a treasured place in your collection. Plus, they provide you with a unique way to stock up on precious silver. Here's a legacy you and your family will cherish. Act now!

SAVE with this World Coin Set

You'll save both time and money on this world coin set with **FREE** shipping and a **BONUS** presentation case, plus a new and informative Silver Passport!

2023 World Silver 5-Coin Set Regular Price \$229 – \$199

SAVE \$30.00 (over 13%) + FREE SHIPPING

FREE SHIPPING: Standard domestic shipping. Not valid on previous purchases.

For fastest service call today toll-free

1-888-201-7070

Offer Code WRD349-05
Please mention this code when you call.

 **SPECIAL CALL-IN ONLY OFFER**

Not sold yet? To learn more,
place your phone camera here >>>
or visit govmint.com/WRD



GovMint.com • 1300 Corporate Center Curve, Dept. WRD349-05, Eagan, MN 55121

GovMint.com® is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. GovMint.com reserves the right to decline to consummate any sale, within its discretion, including due to pricing errors. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of GovMint.com's Terms and Conditions (www.govmint.com/terms-conditions or call 1-800-721-0320); to decline, return your purchase pursuant to GovMint.com's Return Policy. © 2023 GovMint.com. All rights reserved.



TCP Listen as W.F. Strong narrates this story on our website.



A Page of the Past

Traces of real-life Texans ride through McMurtry's 'Lonesome Dove'

BY W.F. STRONG

MILLIONS OF COPIES of Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* have sold since the novel was published in 1985. The miniseries that followed in 1989 was likewise immensely popular. McMurtry himself called it the *Gone With the Wind* of the West, but he never loved the book as much as his fans. "You know most writers come to dislike their most popular books," he once told journalist John Spong. "Henry James hated *Daisy Miller*, which is what he is known by. He's probably written 35 other books. I feel a little that way about *Lonesome Dove*."

McMurtry said he never saw the miniseries. Maybe if he had, he would have better understood how endearingly Robert Duvall, Tommy Lee Jones and

Diane Lane brought their characters to life. I can't help but wonder if those characters were modeled after real-life Texans.

But McMurtry said that that wasn't his aim. Though Woodrow Call has some attributes of Charles Goodnight, and Gus McCrae has some attributes of Oliver Loving, the novel's main characters were not modeled after actual historical figures. McMurtry said the book is not meant to be a faithful history of the era but rather one that has echoes of those times.

In fact, he sought to authentically demythologize the life of the cowboy and show how brutally difficult their lives were. "The whole book is permeated with criticism of the Old West from start to finish," he said.

Nonetheless, McMurtry acknowledged that somehow Call and McCrae became celebrated heroes. He said a lot of people "were nostalgic for the culture of the Old West, though it was a terrible culture."

Bits of history did however make it into the book.

One event in the actual lives of Goodnight and Loving that's enlarged within the book is Loving's death. Goodnight returned his body from Fort Sumner, New Mexico, to Weatherford. In the novel, Call takes McCrae's body all the way from Montana to Texas, a much longer journey with far more drama.

Antagonist Blue Duck was a real Native American chief, but McMurtry said that was coincidental. He chose the name without realizing that, and that's where the similarity stops. But the character's death is without question similar to that of the Kiowa Chief Satanta, who killed himself while imprisoned.

The character Joshua Deets was inspired by Bose Ickard, a longtime friend of Goodnight. When Ickard died, Goodnight carved a fervent epitaph for him. McMurtry used quite similar words—and some of the exact ones—when Call carves an epitaph for Deets.

As we read on, we do encounter genuine historical figures, though their biographies are massaged—people like Judge Roy Bean, John Wesley Hardin and the ubiquitous Goodnight, who's never very chatty and always on the move.

Near the end of the book, a reporter exclaims to Call that people are saying he's a man of vision. He responds, "Yes, a hell of a vision." The real Goodnight actually said this line in a similar circumstance, referring to all the tough times and horror he had seen as a Texas Ranger and frontier rancher. ■

Sheet Pan Meals

All-in-one dishes make serving and cleanup a snap

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

If you're looking for the perfect less-mess sheet pan meal, try this flavorful and balanced steak dinner. This recipe, adapted from our friends at Beef Loving Texans, is so easy you'll want to make it all summer.

Cumin-Dusted Steak Sheet Pan Dinner

1¼ teaspoons ground cumin, divided use
1¼ teaspoons salt, divided use
¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
1¼ pounds well-trimmed boneless top sirloin or flat iron steak (cut 1-inch thick)
1 pound unpeeled sweet potatoes, cut into 1-inch cubes or wedges (about 3 cups)
2 tablespoons olive oil, divided use
¼ teaspoon chili powder
1 bag trimmed fresh green beans (12 ounces)
1 teaspoon garlic powder

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees.
2. Combine 1 teaspoon cumin, $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon salt and pepper in a small bowl. Apply the spice rub to both sides of the steak. Set aside.
3. In a large bowl, toss sweet potato cubes with $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons olive oil, remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon cumin, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt and chili powder. Spread potatoes across a baking sheet lined with foil or parchment. Bake 15 minutes. Turn potatoes and move them to one side of the baking sheet.
4. Increase oven temperature to high broiler setting. Toss green beans with remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon olive oil, remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt and garlic powder. Place green beans next to potatoes on the baking sheet. Place steak on an uncoated wire rack on top of the sheet pan, positioning the steak so that it's over the green beans.
5. Broil steak on lower rack of oven for about 7 minutes. Turn steak and broil an additional 4–5 minutes for medium-rare to medium doneness (145–160 degrees). Remove steak from wire rack and let it sit for about 3 minutes before slicing and serving. Toss green beans with pan juices.

SERVES 5

Reprinted with permission from Beef Loving Texans.

TCP Follow along with Vianney Rodriguez while she cooks in Cocina Gris at sweetlifebake.com, where she features a recipe for Spicy Sheet Pan Hash Browns.





No-Mess Shrimp Boil

HELENA WALLACE
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

If you've been craving a shrimp boil without all the hassle, we've got you covered with this delicious no-mess preparation.

- 2 pounds whole, unpeeled small Yukon potatoes**
- 6 ears fresh corn, cut into 2–3 sections**
- 1 large onion, peeled and quartered**
- 2 pounds shrimp, peeled and deveined**
- 2 packages smoked andouille sausage (12 ounces each), sliced**
- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter**
- 2 cloves garlic, minced**
- 2 tablespoons Old Bay seasoning**
- 4 tablespoons Italian seasoning**
- 2 lemons, cut into wedges**

1. Preheat oven 400 degrees. Lightly oil 2 baking sheets.
2. Add potatoes to a large pot of boiling, salted water and cook 10 minutes or until tender. Add corn and onion in the last 5 minutes of the potatoes boiling. Drain.
3. Spread potatoes, corn and onion onto baking sheets. Add the shrimp and sliced sausage.
4. In a small saucepan over low heat, combine the butter, garlic and Old Bay seasoning and heat until melted. Remove from heat and stir in Italian seasoning.
5. Pour butter mixture over prepared baking sheets, turning to coat all ingredients.
6. Bake 12–15 minutes or until shrimp is fully cooked. Serve with lemon wedges.

SERVES 6–8

[MORE RECIPES >](#)



\$500 WINNER

Aunt Glo's Brandied Peach Chicken

BARBARA LOYD
UNITED COOPERATIVE
SERVICES



A tasty tribute to Loyd's Aunt Glo, this dish takes baked chicken to the next level.

SERVES 8

- ½ cup peach nectar**
- ½ cup brandy**
- ¼ cup olive oil**
- 2 medium shallots, minced**
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar**
- 1 teaspoon salt**
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper**
- 4 pounds chicken breasts, skin on**
- 1 jar peach preserves (12 ounces)**
- 4 plums, sliced**
- 1 cup halved seedless green grapes**

1. In a large bowl, combine nectar, brandy, olive oil, shallots, brown sugar, salt and pepper.
2. Place chicken in mixture and turn to coat. Cover and refrigerate for several hours or overnight. Reserve marinade.
3. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place chicken in a roasting pan, skin side down. Bake 15 minutes.
4. Turn chicken, baste with reserved marinade and bake 30–40 minutes more or until chicken is cooked through.
5. While the chicken bakes, heat the preserves in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Add sliced plums and grapes and simmer until softened. Serve warm chicken topped with the fruit sauce.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

TEXAS CITRUS DUE AUGUST 10

How do you incorporate our state's wonderful grapefruit, oranges, lemons and limes in your recipes? Submit your best online by August 10 for a chance to win \$500.





Apple Sheet Pan Pancakes

CAROLYN BESSELMAN
PEDERNALES EC

If you're looking to feed a crowd at brunch, these sheet pan pancakes are the ultimate treat. Apples, pecans, applesauce and brown sugar create a sinfully sweet topping.

2 apples, cored and diced
1 cup chopped pecans
½ cup dark brown sugar
¼ cup applesauce
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
2 eggs
2½ cups buttermilk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2½ cups flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 tablespoon sugar
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 tablespoon melted unsalted butter

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
2. In a bowl, combine apples, pecans, brown sugar, applesauce and cinnamon and stir to mix. Set aside.
3. In another bowl, whisk together eggs, buttermilk and vanilla. In a large third bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, sugar and baking soda.
4. Pour the egg mixture into the dry ingredients and stir gently until just combined. Do not overmix.

5. Brush the bottom and sides of a 13-by-18-inch rimmed baking sheet with butter.
6. Add the batter to the baking sheet, smoothing it evenly with the back of a spoon.
7. Dollop apple mixture by spoonfuls evenly over the batter. With a spoon, gently swirl the mixture into batter.
8. Bake 20–22 minutes, until golden brown and the top springs back when touched.
9. Remove from oven and serve with butter and syrup.

SERVES 10–14

TCP We have more than 1,000 recipes in our online archive. Check out our website to find other options for entrées, breakfasts and desserts.

Field Dress For Success

The hunt for the perfect outdoorsman knife is over. There's only one tool you need: the Whitetail™ Hunting Knife—now **ONLY \$49!**

Our new **Whitetail™ Hunting Knife** will quickly become your go-to blade for every expedition. The Whitetail™ is a premium fixed-blade hunting knife that's perfect for skinning. You'll never need a separate gut hook tool ever again. The Whitetail™ boasts a mighty 420 high carbon, full tang stainless steel blade, meaning the blade doesn't stop at the handle, it runs the full length of the knife. The comfortable handle is made from pakkawood—moisture-resistant and more durable than hardwood.

With our limited edition **Whitetail™ Hunting Knife** you're getting the best in 21st-century construction with a classic look inspired by legendary American pioneers.

Whitetail™ Hunting Knife \$79*

Offer Code Price Only **\$49** + S&P **Save \$30**
PLUS Free Stauer Compact Binoculars

Stauer® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. WHK411-01
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

*Discount is only for customers who use the offer code versus the listed original Stauer.com price.

- 5 ¼" 420HC stainless steel blade • Full-tang design with gut hook
- Pakkawood handle with brass pins • Bonus heavy duty nylon sheath

But don't wait. A knife of this caliber typically cost hundreds. Priced at an amazing **\$49**, we can't guarantee this knife will stick around for long. So call today!

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. But we believe that once you wrap your fingers around the **Whitetail's** handle, you'll be ready to carve your own niche into the wild frontier.

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: WHK411-01

You must use the insider offer code to get our special price.

**EXCLUSIVE
FREE**
Stauer® 8x21
Compact
Binoculars
-a \$99 value-
with purchase of
Whitetail™ Hunting
Knife



Not shown
actual size.

PERMA-ROOF
from Southern Builders

Steel Mobile Home Roofing

High energy bill?
Roof rumble?
Leaks?

Since 1983

MOBILE HOME ROOFER SYSTEMS

Contact us at 800.633.8969
or roofer.com

Bank C.D.'s Due?
CALL US NOW

1-800-359-4940 TEXAS TOLL-FREE
www.mattsonfinancialservices.com

BLAKE MATTSON, CFP™
Signal Securities, Inc., 5400 Bosque, 4th Floor, Waco, TX 76710
Serving Customers All Over Texas

All C.D.'s are insured to \$250,000 per institution by the F.D.I.C. All C.D.'s are subject to availability. Securities offered thru Signal Securities, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC 700 Throckmorton, Ft. Worth, TX 76102. (817) 877-4256.



BEST BUY WALK-IN TUBS
FEATURING "SEALTITE" TECHNOLOGY
SERVING TEXANS FOR 18 YEARS

Starting at \$129 per month!

- Lifetime Warranty
- Custom Sizes Available
- 100% Financing Available
- A+ BBB Rating
- Good Contractors List

Tubs and Showers Made in America
Visit Our Texas Showroom

bestbuywalkintubs.com • 682-205-3532 • 888-825-2362

WE PAY TOP PRICES FOR COLLECTIBLES

Coins • Banknotes • Gold & Silver Jewelry & Scrap
Vintage Costume Jewelry • Watches • Stamps
Tokens • Historical Documents • Other Collectibles

TEXAS BUYERS GROUP • FREDERICKSBURG, TX
All transactions private, confidential & secure.

830-997-6339 • rzcoins@twc.com

BRUSH SHARK

SKID STEER MOUNTED SHEAR

- 1/2" to 6" diameter trees and brush.
- Perfect for cedar, shin oak, persimmon, mesquite.

(512) 263-6830 • www.brushshark.com

TCP Gift Shop

TCP Shop now
TexasCoopPower.com/shop

WD Metal Buildings



Offering 5" reinforced concrete slabs, erected metal buildings, overhead doors and more, all in one Turn Key Metal Building contract!

Visit www.WDMB2.com

Low Cost Pole Barns

26' x 48' x 10'
3 Sides Enclosed

Call now for our best pricing!

Hay/Horse Barns, Shops, Decks, Concrete Work and Pad Sites

Call Ron: 512-367-0428

ARK-LA-TEX
SHOP BUILDERS
"WE GOTCHA COVERED"

SHOPS • BARNs • CABINS • WWW.SHOPSBUILT.COM

830-730-0515
8670 IH 35 N NEW BRAUNFELS, TX



BUILDINGS OF ALL SIZES

Shops • Garages • Barns • Equipment Sheds • Barnominiums

WE MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE!

Price includes all labor and materials with 4" steel reinforced concrete slab with moisture barrier, one 10"x10" heavy duty roll up door, one 3 foot steel entry door, concrete aprons, electric slab *10' may be extra)

TCP Marketplace
Across Town | Across Texas

Advertise in Texas Co-op Power Marketplace
Elaine Sproull (512) 486-6251
advertising@TexasCoopPower.com



COURTESY CHET GARNER

Extracurricular Activities

A small-town schoolhouse is now a community-focused brewhouse

BY CHET GARNER

FOR MOST PEOPLE—including me—the idea of going back to school sends shivers down their spine. But what if the curriculum consisted of craft beer, live music and scratch-made food? That sort of school would have a wait-list the length of the Rio Grande. Lucky for all of us, this sort of continuing education actually exists near San Angelo at Farm Ale Brewing Co., inside an old schoolhouse in Eola. Class is in session!

Eola is a rural community surrounded by cotton fields as far as the eye can see. Its downtown consists of a few blocks, three churches and a single school building that for decades housed every grade in the public system—kindergarten through 12th. The school closed in the 1980s and sat vacant until 2006, when a group of thirsty Texans decided to turn it into a craft brewery. After all, turning grains into beer is a very scientific process.

I stepped inside and was immediately hit with a wave of nostalgia that was even stronger than the smell of fermenting grains. The bones of the old school are still intact. The classrooms are now dining rooms with chalkboards and flags. The wood-floored gymnasium is now full of family-friendly games, and the auditorium houses the entire production process, from brewing to canning. Farm Ale Brewing Co. brews its beer with as many local ingredients as possible and even gives a percentage of profits back to local farmers.

The biggest upgrade came to the school cafeteria, which now serves up incredible pizza, smash burgers and rotating specials such as meat-loaf. Just like in my school days, I polished off my plate in record time and then headed to the schoolyard for recess—with the added bonus of live music. ■

ABOVE Chet does his homework at Farm Ale Brewing Co. in Eola, outside San Angelo.

TCP Raise your hand if you want to see a video of Chet's visit to Farm Ale on our website. And see all his Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



Know Before You Go

Call ahead or check an event's website for scheduling details, and check our website for many more upcoming events.

AUGUST

11

Alpine [11–12] Big Bend Ranch Rodeo, (432) 837-2326, bigbendranchrodeo.com

Junction [11–12] Rodeo & Dance, (254) 212-9160, junctiontexas.com

12

Chappell Hill Wine and Cheese Stroll, (979) 337-9910, chappellhilltx.com

Denton North Texas Book Festival, ntbfb.org

Grand Prairie Hatch Chile Fest, (972) 237-8084, grandfungp.com

Vanderpool Maples and Meteors Night Sky Fest, (830) 966-3413, tpwd.texas.gov

16

Brady [16–19] Heart of Texas Honky Tonk Fest, (325) 597-1895, heartoftexascountry.com

17

Corsicana Jimmy Fortune: God and Country, (903) 874-7792, corsicanapalace.com

Johnson City [17–19] Blanco County Fair and Rodeo, bcfra.org

18

Palestine Wine in the Pines, 1-855-632-7729, texasstaterailroad.net

Bastrop [18–20, 25–26, Sept. 1–3] Steel Magnolias, (512) 200-3826, bastropoperahouse.org

19

Bowie Outdoor Expo,
(940) 872-6246,
959theranch.com

Chappell Hill Farmers Market, (832) 720-5685,
chappellhillrv.com

Castroville [19-20]
St. Louis Day Celebration,
(830) 931-2826,
saintlouisday.com

24

Fredericksburg [24-27]
Gillespie County Fair,
(830) 997-2359,
gillespiefair.com

26

Crosby Kids Kicking Cancer, (281) 785-4098,
addisfaithfoundation.org

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

Lakeway [26-27] Cool Arts Show and Studio Tour,
(512) 261-1010,
lakewayartsdistrict.com

27

Stonewall LBJ's 115th Birthday, (830) 644-2252,
tpwd.texas.gov

SEPTEMBER

01

Bandera [1-3] Western Heritage Music Festival,
(830) 796-4849,
banderacowboycapital.com

02

Brenham Seth James,
(979) 337-7240,
thebarnhillcenter.com

Kerrville Kerr County Market Days and Hill Country Swap Meet, (830) 459-6198,
kerrmarketdays.org

TCP Submit Your Event

We pick events for the magazine directly from TexasCoopPower.com. Submit your November event by September 1, and it just might be featured in this calendar.



WILKOMMEN • GEMÜTLICHKEIT • PROST

Oktoberfest
FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS 2023
OCTOBER 6-8 2023
Historic Fredericksburg | Marktplatz
www.OktoberfestInFbg.com

FESTIVE FAMILY FUN!

- Excellent music on five stages!
- Oompah at its Best! OKTUBAfest!
- Polka & Waltz contests!
- Many Artisans & Souvenirs
- Hauptstrasse Chicken Dance
- Food & Drink are plentiful!
- Fun in Kinderpark for kids of all ages!



TCP E-news Fast and Direct

Get our best content delivered to your inbox every month!

We bring you everything Texas: its culture, people, food, history and travel, plus our monthly contest winners and more.

TCP Sign up now
TexasCoopPower.com/join

Restoring and Preserving Our History

The Friends of Gillespie County Country
Schools

In the heart of the Texas Hill Country visit 17 historic one-room schools built between 1847 and 1936 by following the 120 mile Gillespie County Country Schools Driving Trail through the scenic Fredericksburg, Texas countryside.

A Driving Tour map and an Open House schedule are available on our website.

WWW.HISTORICSCHOOLS.ORG



All schools listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Member of Country School Association of America.



POWER ANYWHERE USA

MOBILE SOLAR IS HERE

- ◆ THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE GREEN SOLUTION
- ◆ LATEST TECHNOLOGY & ALL-IN-ONE DESIGN
- ◆ BATTERY STORAGE AND PROPANE BACKUP
- ◆ ELIGIBLE FOR THE 30% FEDERAL TAX CREDIT



POWER ANYWHERE USA



It Really Is ... **POWER ANYWHERE!!**

Call us today 833-SOLAR55

www.poweranywhereusa.com



AT LEAST 15% LESS THAN A ROOFTOP INSTALLATION - LET US PROVE IT!!*

* Conditions apply, subject to deed restrictions, equivalent power analysis, and quote verification

SUMMER SAVINGS



**Bolt Together
Steel Building Kits**

Customer Service
Second to None

DDM Brenham Office

979-251-9503

301 Salem Road · Brenham

DDM Bastrop Office

512-321-0336

1083 Hwy 71 W. · Bastrop

Photos for illustration only. Prices subject to change. Please check for your local buildings codes. Prices include color walls, color trim and galvalume roof.

*Building prices are before freight and taxes.



All Metal Structures



Made in Texas



Custom Barndominiums/Metal Houses
Affordable · Low Maintenance · Energy Efficient



40'x15'x12'



30'x40'x12'



Call today for our best pricing!

\$14,485-30x40x12

2-10x10 roll up doors, 1-3070 walk door

\$22,710-40x50x12

2-10x10 roll up doors, 1-3070 walk door

Freight and taxes not included in prices.

www.ddmbuildings.com

Hoof and Horn

What a barnburner! This month readers answered the cattle call, and these prizewinning beasts moo-ved into first place. Now that the dust has settled, don't be baa-shful. Let's see who's best in show and who's just horsing around.

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ

1 JEFFREY BENSON
PEDERNALES EC

"The big boy from Study Butte down by Big Bend."

2 NICK GROSSMAN
PEDERNALES EC

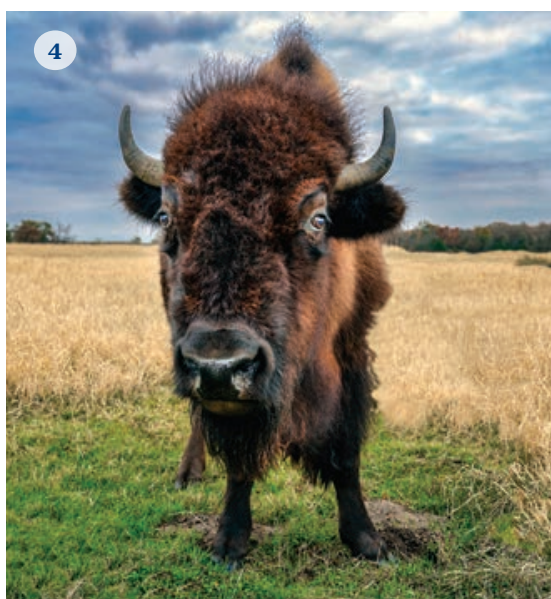
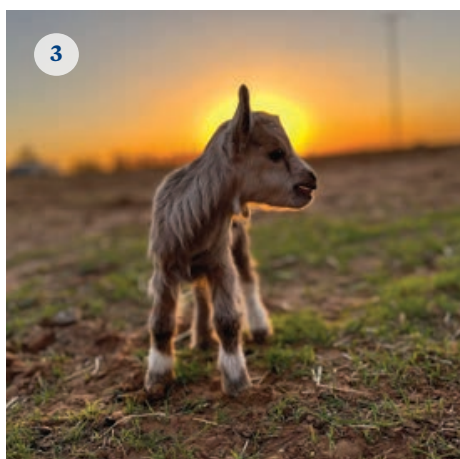
"Two wranglers heel and toe a calf in the arena."

3 CRYSTAL VALDEZ
LYNTEGAR EC

"Muffin was born smaller than her two brothers, but she held on to fight against all odds."

4 MARIA CASTILLO
COSERV

"This beauty was captured roaming the fields at my daughter's wedding venue in Terrell."



Upcoming Contests

- DUE AUG 10** Mailboxes
- DUE SEP 10** Local Landmarks
- DUE OCT 10** Vibrant Color



Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

TCP See Focus on Texas on our website for more Hoof and Horn photos from readers.



Off the Hook?

The perfect tool, unused but ready, awaits the arrival of snakes

BY PATTY MOYNAHAN
ILLUSTRATION BY
TAYLOR CALLERY

MANY A NATIVE TEXAN, beholding an expanse of ranchland, will sooner or later think: snakes. A few years ago, my husband and I bought a house in southwest Austin. Our backyard abuts a cattle ranch, and the two properties are demarcated by a wrought iron fence. The fence is by no means a shield. Its spires—a hand's width apart—offer space enough for critters to wriggle or slither through.

Before moving into the house, we'd heard about sightings in the area: rat snakes, ribbon snakes and garter snakes. Also rattlers, coral snakes and copperheads. I wasn't entirely sanguine about these reports. But I wasn't terrified either. When I was growing up in Bryan, my family often visited friends on a nearby ranch, where I'd learned to identify and avoid venomous snakes.

Soon after settling into our new house, a tall, narrow box arrived on our doorstep, a birthday present from my husband. As I unwrapped the gift, I saw a rubber grip and metal shaft and thought, ungratefully, that my husband had bought me a golf club. But it proved to be a tool far more useful to me than a 2-iron: a snake hook—a 43-inch stainless steel beauty, elegant in its simplicity.

The term "snake hook" can be misleading. No flesh is pierced. You ease the U-shaped hook under a snake and lift it. The snake dangles at the shaft's end, out of striking distance, while you figure out what to do next.

For a sublime moment, as I regarded the gift, I was as excited as *A Christmas Story's* Ralphie with his BB gun. I imagined myself deftly hoisting a 2-pound rattler and ... and what? Flinging it over the fence? Passing it between the spires and dropping it onto the ranchland? The affronted snake could be back in my yard before I was in the house. The phrase "fool's errand" came to mind.

Alas, in four years, we've seen only one snake: a baby rattler, mortally wounded, perhaps dropped from a hawk's talons.

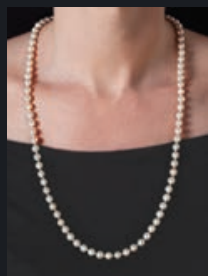
The snakes are out there, I am certain, but they've not been in evidence—so far.

My snake hook stands at the ready, on the back porch. I feel both relief and disappointment that I've not had to employ it for snake removal.

But we've discovered its myriad other uses. Before trimming bottom branches of lantana plants, I wave the hook under the plants to flush out any creatures. My husband uses the hook's pointy tip to pulverize abandoned mud dauber nests. And a snake hook is the perfect tool for retrieving a grandchild's stray crayons, puzzle pieces and grapes from beneath the living room sofa. ■

How Do You Spell Pearl Necklace? F-R-E-E.

Experience the Luxury of Genuine Cultured Pearls ... **FREE!***



You read that right. If you'd like the Stauer genuine 26" cultured pearl necklace for **FREE***, all you need to do is call us today. There is no catch. This stunning, romantic necklace never goes out of style. In a world where some cultured pearl necklaces can cost thousands, we're offering ours for **FREE***.

Stauer has had a very good year and it's time for us to give back. That's

why we're offering this stunning, 26" strand of genuine cultured white pearls for **FREE!** You pay only \$24.95 for shipping & processing, our normal fee for a \$295 necklace ... and we'll even **pay you back with a \$30 Discount Certificate** — **that's our BETTER THAN FREE Shipping!**

Why would we do this? Because we are so sure that you will become a loyal Stauer client in the years to come. Recently, we encountered a magnificent cache of cultured freshwater pearls at the best price that I have ever seen. Our pearl dealer was stuck. A large foreign luxury department store cancelled a massive order at the last minute. In their stead we grabbed all of those gorgeous pearls. He sold us an enormous cache of his roundest, whitest, most iridescent cultured 6 ½-7 ½ mm pearls for pennies on the dollar. His loss is your gain.

Too good to pass up. Too good to last long. Genuine cultured freshwater pearls are a luxurious statement. Stauer finds a deal this outrageous once every few years. We have sold over 200,000 strands of pearls in the last several years and this is our finest value ever. **There is only a limited quantity left in stock**, so when they're gone, they're GONE! Call to reserve your **FREE Cultured Pearl Necklace** today and experience a brilliant new definition of *price-less* luxury!

Mitsuko® Cultured Pearl Necklace:

Mitsuko® Cultured Pearl Necklace (26" strand) ~~\$295~~ **** FREE***

*Pay only shipping & processing of \$24.95. Special price only for customers using the offer code.

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: MFP487-05

* This offer is valid in the United States (and Puerto Rico) except in TX, FL, CO, OK, RI, NH, WV, OR, SC, VA, ID and CA. These state residents will be charged one cent (\$.01) + shipping & processing for the item. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. Offer subject to state and local regulations. Not valid with any other offers and only while supplies last. This offer is limited to one item per shipping address. ** Free is only for customers using the offer code versus the price on Stauer.com without your offer code.

CLIENTS LOVE STAUER JEWELRY

"I couldn't believe it, but decided to call and I've not been disappointed since. I received the necklace and keep coming back for more."

— Amy, Fairmont, WV



"Each Mitsuko® cultured pearl is harvested, polished and strung by hand."

— James T. Fent,
Stauer GIA Graduate Gemologist

**FREE CULTURED PEARLS
LIMITED TO THE FIRST 1,900
RESPONDERS TO THIS AD ONLY!**

Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. MFP487-05, Burnsville, MN 55337 www.stauer.com

Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®



THE PERFECT PAIR GET THE BEST OF TV + INTERNET

DIRECTV

DON'T COMPROMISE ON ENTERTAINMENT.

GET DIRECTV.

2-YEAR PRICE GUARANTEE – STOP WORRYING

ABOUT YOUR BILL AND START WATCHING

Taxes/fees apply. Req's 24-mo. agmt.

**LEADER IN SPORTS – NATIONAL, REGIONAL
AND LOCAL SPORTS 24/7**



Claim based on offering of Nat'l and Regional Sports Networks. RSNs avail. with CHOICE package or higher. Availability of RSNs varies by ZIP code and package.

ACCESS LIVE TV & **THOUSANDS OF STREAMING APPS**

Req's separate subscription/login for Netflix, Max, Prime Video (see amazon.com/amazonprime for details) and other 3rd party apps. Restrictions apply. High speed internet-connected compatible device required. Google Login required.

ENTERTAINMENT PACKAGE

75+
CHANNELS

\$64^{99*}
MO.
for 24 months
+ taxes and fees

w/ 24-mo. agmt. Advanced Receiver Service Fee \$15/mo. and
Regional Sports Fee up to \$13.99/mo. are extra & apply. Requires AutoPay and Paperless Bill.

IT'S FINALLY HERE.

**RELIABLE 5G
HOME INTERNET**

- ✓ LIFETIME PRICE LOCK
- ✓ NO DATA LIMITS
- ✓ NO CONTRACT
- ✓ NO UPFRONT COST
- ✓ NO EQUIPMENT FEES
- ✓ NO INSTALLATION

\$50 FOR INTERNET
INCLUDES ALL TAXES & FEES!

TV service not required. Speeds and prices vary by provider.

Aloha Satellite

866.670.2836



Available only in the U.S. (excludes Puerto Rico and U.S.V.I.). Some offers may not be available through all channels and in select areas. Different offers may apply for eligible multi-dwelling units. All offers, packages, programming, promotions, features, terms, restrictions & conditions and all prices and fees not included in price guarantee are subject to change or discontinuation without notice. Visit directv.com/legal/ or call for details.

VIA SATELLITE: Pricing: \$64.99/mo. for two years. After 2 years, then month to month at then-current prevailing prices unless cancelled. Price excludes Advanced Receiver Service Fee of \$15/mo. (which is extra and applies to all packages) and Regional Sports Fee of up to \$13.99/mo. (which is extra & applies to CHOICE pkg or higher) and certain other add'l fees & charges. Additional Fees & Taxes: \$7/mo. for each additional TV connection on your account. Wireless upgrade with HD DVR \$99.00. Applicable use tax expense surcharge on retail value of installation, custom installation charges, equipment upgrades/add-ons, and certain other add'l fees & chrgs. See directv.com/directv-fees/ for additional information. \$10/mo. Autopay and Paperless Bill Discount: Must enroll in autopay & paperless bill within 30 days of TV activation to receive bill credit starting in 1-3 bill cycles (pay \$10 more/mo. until discount begins). Must maintain autopay/paperless bill and valid email address to continue credits. DIRECTV Svc Terms: Subject to Equipment Lease & Customer Agreements. Taxes, surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), protection plan, transactional fees, and Federal Cost Recovery Fee are not included in two-year price guarantee. Visit directv.com/legal/ or call for details. Equipment Non-Return-Fees: If you cancel your service, you must return your leased equipment. Failure to return any equipment will result in fees of \$45 for each standard DIRECTV Receiver, each HD DIRECTV Receiver, each Genie Mini and each Gemini receiver and \$135 for each DVR, HD DVR, Genie® HD DVR and/or Genie 2 DIRECTV Receiver. GEMINI DEVICE: To use the Device, you will need an Internet connection, your use of which is subject to the fees, restrictions, terms, and limitations imposed by your Internet service provider. Gemini Device(s) will deactivate after 90 consecutive days without internet connection. If that happens, you will not be able to receive service through that Device until you (re)connect to the internet.

VIA INTERNET: Service subject to DIRECTV delivered via internet terms and conditions (see <https://www.directv.com/legal/directv-stream-tos-eula-policy/>). Available only in the U.S. (excludes Puerto Rico and U.S.V.I.). Requires high speed internet. Minimum internet speed of 8Mbps per stream recommended for optimal viewing. Residential customers only. Different offers may apply for eligible multi-dwelling units. Pricing: \$64.99/month. After 2 years, continues month to month at then-current prevailing prices unless cancelled. Additional Fees & Taxes: Price excludes Advanced Receiver Service Fee of \$15/mo. (which is extra and applies to all packages) and Regional Sports Fee of up to \$13.99/mo. (which is extra & applies to CHOICE pkg or higher) and certain other add'l fees & charges. See directv.com/directv-fees/ for additional information. State and local taxes or other governmental fees and charges may apply including any such taxes, fees or charges assessed against discounted fees or service credits. DIRECTV Svc Terms: Subject to Customer Agreement. GEMINI/GEMINI AIR DEVICE: First device included for well-qualified customers; otherwise \$120 for new Gemini/Gemini Air or \$49.99 for Certified Restored Gemini. Applicable taxes due at sale. Additional Gemini/Gemini Air: Additional device for well-qualified customers \$10/mo. for 12 mos., otherwise \$120 each or \$49.99 for each Certified Restored Gemini. Purchased Gemini/Gemini Air may be returned within 14 days of the Ship Date for a full refund however all monthly fees, including additional monthly fees, will continue to apply. Additional Gemini/Gemini Air purchased on installment agreement subject to additional terms and conditions. If you cancel your service in the first 14 days of order, you must return the included Gemini/Gemini Air within 14 days of order to avoid \$120 non-return fee. Once you've canceled, you can access DIRECTV through the remaining monthly period. No refunds or credits for any partial-month periods or unwatched content. Gemini/Gemini Air purchased on installment agreement subject to additional terms and conditions. See cancellation policy at directv.com/CancellationPolicyStream for more details. Regional Sports & Local Channels: Regional Sports available with CHOICE and above. Not available in select areas. Channels vary by package & billing region. Device may need to be in billing region in order to view. Limits: Package, Advanced Receiver Service Fee, Regional Sports Fee (varies by zip code) and equipment fees for TV connections are included in two-year price guarantee. Taxes, surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), and transactional fees are not included in two-year price guarantee. Programming subject to blackout restrictions.

All offers, programming, promotions, pricing, terms, restrictions & conditions subject to change & may be modified, discontinued, or terminated at any time without notice. See directv.com for details.

©2023 DIRECTV. DIRECTV and all other DIRECTV marks are trademarks of DIRECTV, LLC. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.