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Texas Coop Power

FOR BLUEBONNET EC MEMBERS

AUGUST 2020

WHAT BEING TEXAN MEANS

MY TX

**BLUEBONNET
EC NEWS**

SEE PAGE 18

The Calm **BEFORE** the Storm

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August 2020



08

MY TX

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

Introduction by Joe Holley

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

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

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*Story and photo by
karla k. morton
and Alan
Birkelbach*

Bee Aware

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

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

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



What can you do to help bees thrive?

Put the sprays away.

Plant bee-friendly flowers.

Let your veggie and herb plants flower.

Educate children on the importance of pollinators.

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

—SAM HOUSTON

FINISH THIS SENTENCE

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

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

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

MIKE WHITLEY
GRAYSON-COLLIN EC
MCKINNEY

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

MARK BROWNING
SAM HOUSTON EC
GOODRICH

Not being a Californian anymore.

DALENE MASDEN
MEDINA EC
MICO

Naturally saying y'all and fixin'.

CANDY PENNINGTON KIESOW
HOUSTON COUNTY EC
GRAPELAND

To see more responses, read Currents online.





TCP'S NEW LOOK

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

127.36 feet

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



Acclaimed Clipper

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

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



TCP *Contests and More*

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



An Alternate Reality

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

JOYCE BATTARBEE
 NAVASOTA VALLEY EC
 JEWETT

Rare Treat

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

Tammie Frenzel
 Heart of Texas EC
 Westphalia



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

ALICEA LOGAN-MASTERS
 VIA FACEBOOK

Oh, My: No Mi Tierra?

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

Noble Dunson
 Central Texas EC
 Kingsland

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

Patricia Martin
 Cherokee County EC
 Starrville

Dear Dairy

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

Gabrielle Gordon
 Tri-County EC
 Tarrant County



TCP WRITE TO US
 letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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

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

Texas Co-op Power

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MY TEX

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE TEXAN?

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

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

I suppose I was.

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

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

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

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





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

JAY B SAUCEDA

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



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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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



BLUEBONNETS: ERIC W. POHL; CHENS: COURTESY TIFFANY CHEN

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

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

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

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

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





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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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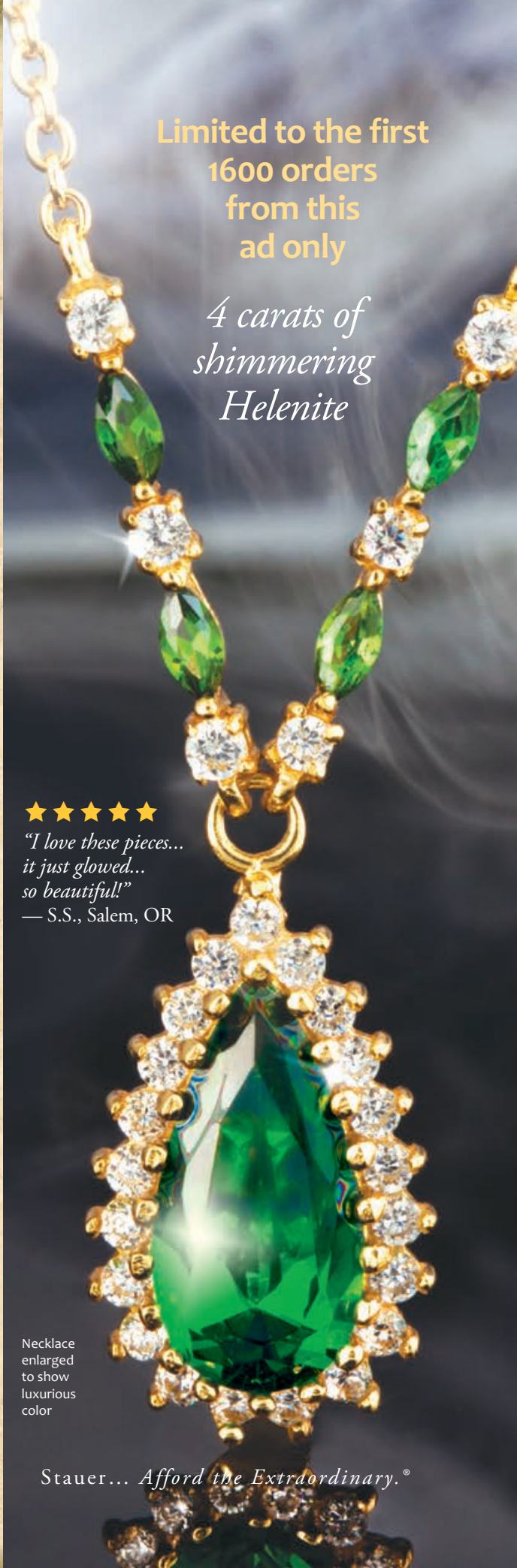


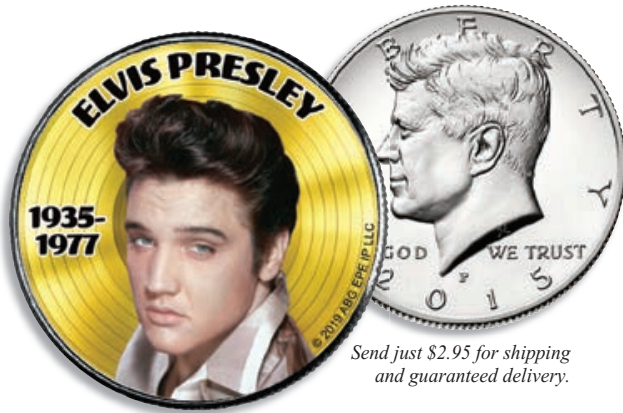
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a passion for paddling

Be it in a canoe or kayak, the waterways in the Bluebonnet region are a perfect retreat for beginners or seasoned veterans

Story by Pam LeBlanc
Photos by Sarah Beal

MIDWAY THROUGH a 25-mile paddle down the Colorado River, Jimmy Harvey pulls his kayak beneath a canopy of trees along the bank and waves me over. I glide up alongside him, unsure what to expect.

“Put your paddle down,” he says. The quiet settles around us like a blanket. “Listen. No human noises. Just the wind, the river and the birds.”

One in a series of stories on fitness, recreation and outdoor adventure in the Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative region.

Get Going

WITH

Pam LeBlanc

twists and turns like a length of rope here, but it all feels miles away from civilization. By the time we ease our boats beneath the highway overpass in Smithville four

Continued on page 20





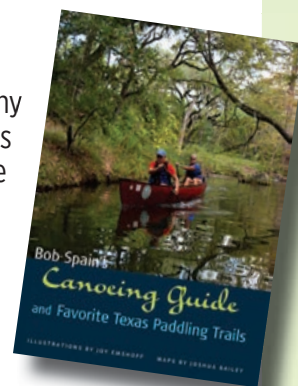
Pam LeBlanc and Jimmy Harvey paddle their boats on the Colorado River at Fisherman's Park in Bastrop, above. Greg Klausmeyer of Houston, left, paddles his kayak in the Rio Vista Park section of the San Marcos River.

A GOOD GUIDEBOOK

Anyone interested in exploring the Lone Star State's many rivers by canoe or kayak should start with longtime Texas paddler Bob Spain's book, "Canoeing Guide and Favorite Texas Paddling Trails."

The 206-page book, printed on waterproof paper, has information on canoeing history, boat design, gear, paddling techniques, safety, water trails and conservation.

His suggestion for those ready to get into the sport? "Go out in a tandem boat with someone who's a paddler if you can because they can give you subtle tips," Spain says. If that's not an option, contact a canoe livery to find someone who can show you a few strokes and offer basic instruction.



Continued from page 18

and a half hours later, my back is tired and my rear end feels half-frozen in place, but I'm happy.

Harvey is a longtime paddler who first canoed as a kid on the Devil's River in West Texas. The Austin resident has completed numerous endurance canoe races, including the Texas Water Safari, a 260-mile nonstop race from San Marcos to Seadrift on the Texas coast.

I'm relatively new to paddling, but in 2019 I joined two other women, both veteran paddlers, to race the Texas Water Safari. We faced logjams, mud, palm-sized spiders, hallucinations and human-sized alligator gar in that adventure.

But this day's Colorado River paddle reveals a completely different and much more relaxed side of the sport.

Before dragging our boats ashore, we've spotted blue herons, soft-shelled turtles, cattle and what almost certainly was a bald eagle, flapping away from the towering skeleton of a dead cottonwood tree. While leaving a small gravel bar where we took a break, I nearly paddled over a short, thick snake that looked like a water moccasin while steering my boat back into the current.

This is why I love to paddle in the first place — to get an up-close look at wildlife on the river while following an unspooling highway of liquid wherever it goes, at a pace that just feels natural.

I'm grateful for the previous day's rain, which delivered a nice flow to help propel us. I'm also thankful for Harvey's expert eye, and I try to glean a little of his skill as we go. Where I see a uniform swath of water, he can read ripples and swirls, and knows exactly where to posi-



ABOVE: Holly Orr, second from left, owner of Paddle With Style and Texas Canoes & Kayaks, paddles on the San Marcos River near Martindale with her sons Matthew Orr, at left, 10, and William Orr, 11. In the red canoe, Tom and Paula Goyens, owners of San Marcos River Retreat, make their way downriver. **RIGHT:** Holly Orr helps her daughter, Katelyn Orr, 7, into her life jacket. **BELOW:** Pam LeBlanc and Jimmy Harvey paddle their way down the Colorado River.

tion his boat to get the best ride.

Paddling traces its American roots to the northern states, where Native Americans and fur traders used canoes for transportation. It remains popular in the northern U.S. and Canada, for both recreation and competition. But Texas enjoys one big advantage — a mild climate.

"You can paddle here in the winter. Up north, the streams are frozen," says Bob Spain, author of "Bob Spain's Canoeing Guide and Favorite Texas Paddling Trails."

Spain got into canoeing because he liked the adventure. "I've paddled in 40 or so states, raced in 25, and met people all over the country and abroad," he says. "When you canoe, you see things you wouldn't see otherwise."

Just about anyone can do it, too. Most start with a kayak, because it's

easier to steer. But canoeing offers its own set of advantages: You won't get as wet while doing it, and you can load a canoe with enough gear for a paddle camping trip. Either way, a day on the river is a day well spent.

"It's something you can do your whole life, and you don't have to be a pro or in great shape," Spain says. "If you want to float down river and throw a hook in, you can do that. You get what you put into it."

Here in Central Texas, the Colorado River serves up a smooth ribbon of water that includes several stretches designated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as paddling trails. If you go, remember it's OK to stop on gravel bars or islands in the river, but respect private property. Rainfall upstream can create high flows downstream, so check flow levels before you go. Area lakes



HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR PAD

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has a guide to all of the good boating/paddling routes around the state, along with a calendar of paddling events and information on how to paddle, equipment, education and laws.

tinyurl.com/ydbjja7h

LCRA Colorado River Guide for Paddlers is an interactive guide for access



make good paddling grounds, too.

In and near Bluebonnet's southwestern service area, San Marcos and nearby Martindale offer opportunities to access the San Marcos River, which flows into the Guadalupe River downstream. The river serves up some of the prettiest paddling in Central Texas, with cypress-

lined stretches of cool, green water and a few rapids capable of bucking inexperienced paddlers.

For information about current river conditions, go to www.lcra.org or <https://on.doi.gov/2VNVxUH>.

There are several spots in the Bluebonnet region where you can put in a kayak or canoe for a long, leisurely (or in some spots more challenging) float. You must make pre-planned take-out arrangements for the end of your trip. Check with state parks or the paddling site owners for restrictions on access, required face coverings and social distancing requirements due to COVID-19. ■

Pam LeBlanc has written about fitness, adventure and recreation in Central Texas for decades. Her work has appeared in Texas Monthly, Texas Highways, Texas Parks & Wildlife and Real Simple magazines, and the Austin American-Statesman.

PADDLING PLANNING

points and navigation features along the lower Colorado River. This web page also provides other resource information and contact information for LCRA parks. tinyurl.com/yc65lqo2

Texasoutside.com's list of the state's kayak and canoe paddling trails mentions several in the Bluebonnet region and around the state. tinyurl.com/yctuousxv

PADDLING OUTFITTERS

Availability may be impacted by coronavirus restrictions. Call before you make plans.

BASTROP RIVER COMPANY

Fisherman's Park
1400 Willow St., Bastrop
512-321-4661
bastropriverco.com

Canoe, kayak and stand-up paddleboard rentals by the hour or river trip, and shuttle service

RISING PHOENIX ADVENTURES

1409 Chestnut St., Bastrop
512-677-2305
risingphoenixadventures.com

Canoe, kayak and stand-up paddleboard rentals and shuttle service on the Colorado River from Austin to La Grange

COOK'S CANOES

1004 Water St., Webberville
512-276-7767
cookscanoes.com

Canoe and kayak rentals

TG CANOES & KAYAKS

402 Pecan Park Drive, San Marcos
512-353-3946
tgcanoe.com

Big selection of boats, equipment to buy; will make repairs but no rentals or lessons

TEXAS CANOES & KAYAKS and PADDLE WITH STYLE

Reservations at P.O. Box 512, Martindale, 78655
512-749-2350
texascanoekayak.com
paddlewithstyle.com

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SAN MARCOS RIVER RETREAT

444 Pecan Park Drive, San Marcos
512-392-6171
sanmarcosriverretreat.com

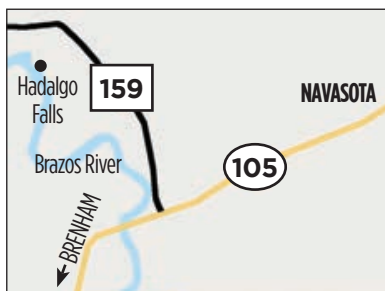
Shady campground serves mainly youth groups, emphasis on learning to canoe/kayak

POPULAR PADDLING ROUTES IN THE BLUEBONNET AREA



Webberville

Get your feet wet with a leisurely 5.5-mile float on the Colorado River from Little Webberville Park to Big Webberville Park. Access is easy, with concrete boat ramps at each site for easy put in and take out, and huge shady oaks that make a good canopy for picnicking. Rentals and shuttles are available at Cook's Canoes, 1004 Water St. in Webberville, cookscanoes.com, operated by the grizzled but friendly Neal Cook.

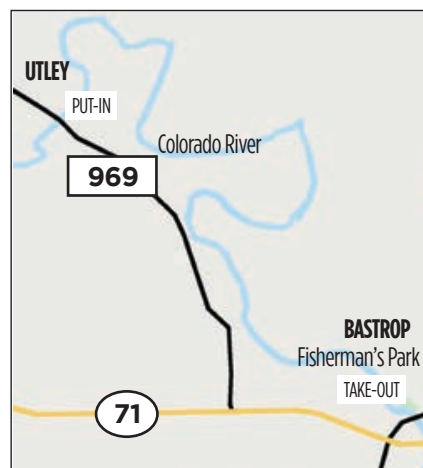


Hidalgo Falls

Paddlers must be certified or registered with the Texas Rivers Protection Association to get permission to access Hidalgo Falls, a private 13-acre park on the Brazos River about 8 miles from Navasota. The rapids and fast-moving water are unusual for East Texas, and are used by emergency crews for swiftwater rescue training. For more information, go to tinyurl.com/y8c3ydsv.

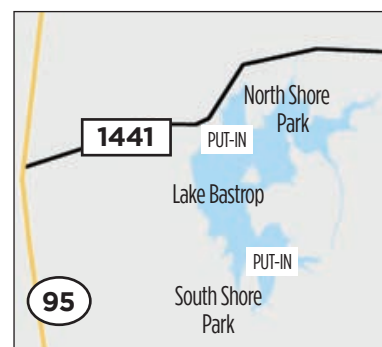
Wilbarger Paddling Trail

This wide, slow-moving section of the Colorado River covers 14.3 miles from Utley, where you can put in at the FM 969 Bridge, to Bastrop, where Fisherman's Park makes an easy place to take a boat out. (Watch out for goose droppings on the concrete take-out.) Along the way, you'll paddle past cottonwoods, pecans and cypress, and you won't find any human-made obstructions. Pay attention, though; a few riffles keep things interesting. tinyurl.com/y8n75erc



El Camino Real Paddling Trail

This generally slow-moving stretch of the Colorado River will take you 6 miles between Fisherman's Park in Bastrop and the Lost Pines Recreational Trails site neighboring the Pines and Prairies Land Trust's Colorado River Refuge. You'll encounter a few minor rapids, float alongside high sandstone bluffs and limestone outcroppings, and pass groves of pecan and cottonwood trees. Plenty of gravel bars make good spots to pull off and rest, and the fishing's good. tinyurl.com/y9kxn4n



Lake Bastrop

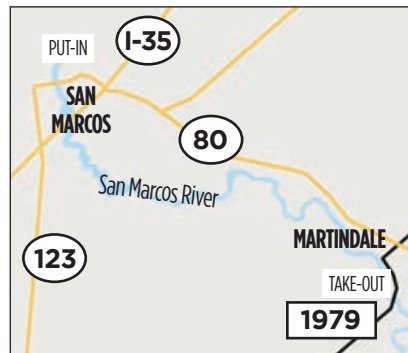
The Lower Colorado River Authority operates two parks on Lake Bastrop — Lake Bastrop North Shore Park, 603 FM 1441, where you can spend the night in an Airstream trailer, and its larger sibling, Lake Bastrop South Shore Park, where you can stay in a rental cabin. You can also rent canoes, kayaks or stand-up paddleboards from either park. The paddling is easy, without any moving current, and the water's warm. It's a good spot to bring kids and families without any paddling experience. The reservoir is located about 3 miles northeast of Bastrop and is stocked with largemouth bass and catfish, so bring a pole. lcra.org/parks



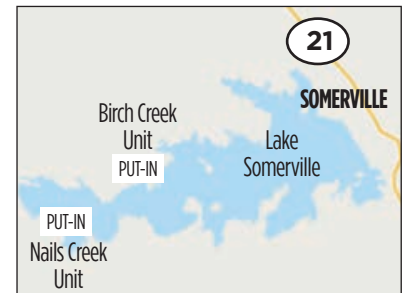
Pam LeBlanc and Jimmy Harvey paddle on the Colorado River near Bastrop. Their slow trek to Smithville took more than four hours and was packed with wildlife sightings.

San Marcos City Park to Shady Grove Campground

This 10.4-mile shady, narrow stretch of the San Marcos River serves up some of the prettiest scenery in the area. Unless coronavirus restrictions are in place, put in before 10 a.m. at City Park, 170 Charles Austin Drive in San Marcos, and perhaps you'll avoid hordes of tubers farther downstream. Plan to carry your canoe or kayak (that's called portage by paddlers) around the rapids at Rio Vista Dam. At Cummings Dam, you'll have to drag your boat down a steep set of wooden stairs and, later, navigate a low-water bridge. The biggest obstacle comes at Cottonseed Rapid, where swift water can flip

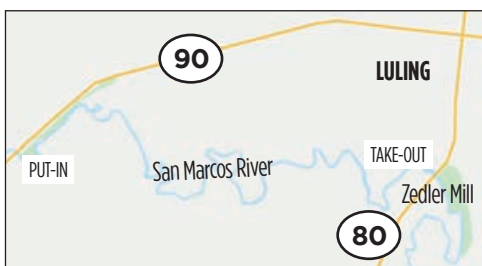


a boat. Keep an eye out for bald eagles, owls and turtles. Don't even think about running Martindale Dam; portage right. Take out at Spencer's Canoes and Shady Grove Campground, 9515 FM 1979. You'll pay a small day use fee.



Somerville Lake

Somerville Lake is an 11,000-acre reservoir north of Burton and Carmine, where you can rent a canoe at the Birch Creek Unit of Lake Somerville State Park on the north side of the lake or the Nails Creek Unit on the park's southwest side. Both units rent canoes and kayaks and have ramps.



Luling Zedler Mill Paddling Trail

If you want to experience part of the course of the famed Texas Water Safari, put in at the Texas 90 river crossing 5 miles west of Luling, and paddle 6 miles to Zedler Mill, which is within the city limits. You'll glide through some small rapids and plenty of clear, quiet pools, and might encounter a logjam or two. Just scramble over or around them if you do, dragging your boat behind. And watch for spiders. tinyurl.com/yczozk4w



Erin Kieschnick photo



The Lincoln Volunteer Fire Department in Lee County includes, from left, Spencer Schneider, Kyle Kieschnick, Shane Urban and Jared Boriack.

Grants help fire department, SPJST lodge with improvements

THE LOWER COLORADO River Authority and Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative provided several grants in Bluebonnet's service area recently. The grants are part of LCRA's Community Development Partnership Program to give back to the communities it serves. Bluebonnet is one of LCRA's wholesale electric customers and a partner in the grant program. More information is available at lcra.org/cdpp.

The Lincoln Volunteer Fire Department will be able to refill firefighter air tanks and air bottles at the department rather than sending them out of town to be replenished, thanks to a \$19,893 grant.

This grant, combined with \$4,973 in matching funds from the department, will enable the department to purchase and install the new self-contained breathing apparatus refill station to help ensure volunteer firefighters have access to clean, safe air while responding to emergencies.

A \$24,000 grant will help restore a historic fraternal lodge and dance hall that has welcomed residents of Fayette County for more than a century. The grant, paired with matching funds of \$46,000, will pay for restorations to the wooden flooring and shutters at SPJST Lodge No. 1 in Fayetteville. The lodge was built in 1910.

In addition to lodge meetings, the building is frequently the site of



Photo courtesy of SPJST Lodge No. 1

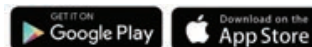
"We had wanted to carry out this restoration for several years," said Ronald Pflughaupt, treasurer of SPJST Lodge No. 1. "With the help of LCRA and Bluebonnet, it's going to happen."

community gatherings such as weddings and reunions.

SPJST comes from the Czech phrase Slovanska Podporujici Jednota Statu Texas, which in English means the Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas. SPJST was founded in 1897, when members in a nationwide fraternal organization decided to create a Texas-only fraternal benefit society. ■

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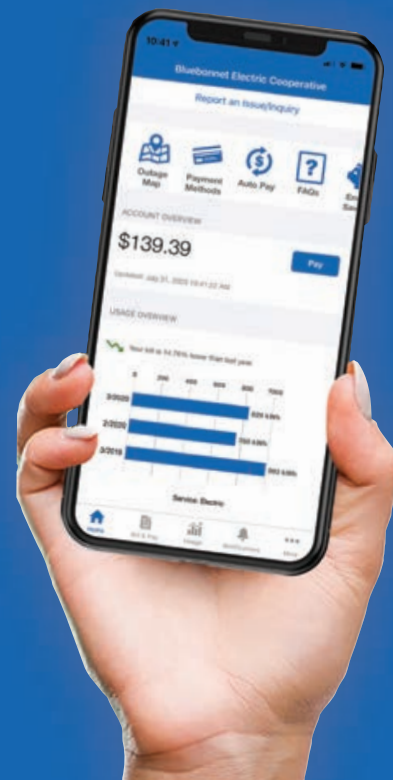
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DR. LIZ MONTERO

has been a pediatric dentist for seven years, the last three in Manor. A Bluebonnet member, she pays her bills online and keeps her business eco-friendly by tracking her monthly energy use on the MyBluebonnet mobile app. 'We love Bluebonnet,' she said. 'The new app has a great feature for keeping track of your usage. I like it!'

Learn more at
bluebonnet.coop/mybluebonnet

Bad to the Bone

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

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

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

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

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

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

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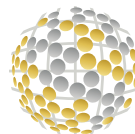
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Empowering Every Vote

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

BY TANYA ESTES

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

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

ment for a woman at the time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cool Foods

Chill out with salads, slaws and sauerkraut

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

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

Easy Gazpacho

4 large tomatoes, about 2 pounds

1 cucumber

¼ cup chopped red onion

1 clove garlic

2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

2 tablespoons olive oil

Salt and pepper, to taste

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

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

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

SERVES 4

TCP WEB EXTRA Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Cucumber Tomato Salad With Pesto.





Baja Black Bean Salad

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

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

1/3 cup diced celery

1/3 cup peeled, seeded and diced cucumber

1/4 cup diced red bell pepper

1/4 cup diced green bell pepper

1/4 cup diced red onion

1/4 cup crumbled feta or cotija cheese

1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro

1/2 jalapeño pepper, minced

1/4 cup olive oil

1 tablespoon vinegar

1 lime, zested and juiced

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

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

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

SERVES 4



\$500 WINNER

Mama's Chilled Sauerkraut Corn Relish

LORY VON STADEN
HEART OF TEXAS EC



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

SERVES 12

1 can (14.5 ounces) sauerkraut

3/4 cup sugar

1/2 cup vegetable oil

1/4 cup vinegar

1/2 teaspoon celery seeds

1 can (15.25 ounces) corn, drained

1/2 cup chopped red or green bell pepper

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

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

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

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

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

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

VEGETARIAN DUE AUG 10

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

[MORE RECIPES >](#)

Mama's Watermelon Salad

TINA HALL CARTER
HOUSTON COUNTY EC

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

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

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

SERVES 6



Chicken With Confetti Slaw

CHRISTINE HENDERSON
GUADALUPE VALLEY EC

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

DRESSING

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

- 1 teaspoon celery salt
- 1 teaspoon sugar

SALAD

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

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

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

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

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

SERVES 6

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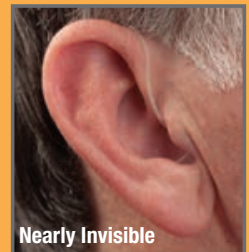
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COURTESY CHET GARNER

Mysterious Message

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

BY CHET GARNER

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

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

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

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

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

ABOVE Bryan Bayles of the Witte Museum stands with Chet.

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

Know Before You Go

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

AUGUST

07

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

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

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

13

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

14

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

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

15

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

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

17

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

21

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

22

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

23

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

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

28

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

29

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

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

SEPTEMBER

02

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

03

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

05

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

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

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

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

Submit Your Event

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

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On the Water

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

GRACE FULTZ



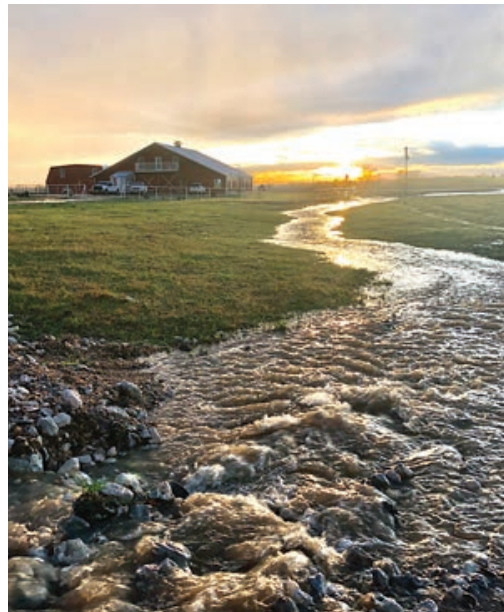
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

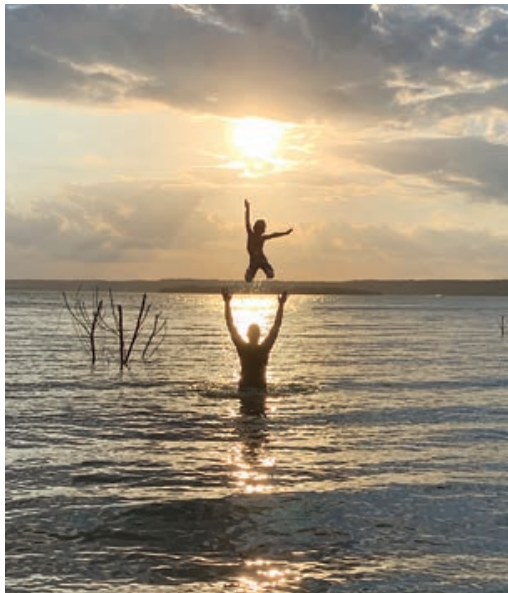
STEVEN CHERNOSKY
BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES
"Social distancing on the Brazos River at sunset near Batts Ferry."

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

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

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





Upcoming Contests

DUE AUG 10 On Wheels

DUE SEP 10 Forests

DUE OCT 10 Saddles

Enter online and review submission rules at TexasCoopPower.com/Contests.

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



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

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

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

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

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





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

TCP WEB EXTRA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Coming Home

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

STORY AND PHOTO
BY KARLA K. MORTON
AND ALAN BIRKELBACH

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

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

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

Certain things should never fall out of

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