



YOUR FAVORITE

# photos

Cream-of-the-crop selections that wowed Carolina Country judges. Find more eyecatchers at [www.carolinacountry.com](http://www.carolinacountry.com)



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1. We recently moved outside the city limits to a farm where we are connected to Randolph Electric. We love it, but we are renting while we build a house down the road (still Randolph Electric). We decided to have some family pictures made while we are here so we can remember our time “on the farm.” A good friend came out with her camera and some black and white film, and we spent the morning just playing around. We got some great pictures, and my favorite is one of my daughter Bailey. I believe she will always be a farm girl at heart, no matter where we live. **Melody Gwyn, Asheboro, Randolph EMC**



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2. My daughter was a freshman in college at Banner Elk when she sent me this picture of her doing a backbend on the edge of a mountain, part of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Her name is Stacey Watkins. **Donna Watkins, Thomasville, EnergyUnited**

3. This is Cox’s Mill on Mill Creek in the Holly Springs community of Randolph County. The mill was built in the early 20th century by Allison Beane and is also known as Beane’s Mill. **Amanda Varner, Asheboro, Randolph EMC**

4. This is my grandmother Elizabeth “Lizzie” Woolard. She grew up in Washington, N.C., the oldest of nine children. She was a hardworking country woman who raised her two children alone once her husband died after 12 years of marriage. She was independent, strong and a devout Christian who also had a gift for gardening. She once put a single rose clipping in the ground and it grew into a bush. She died recently, and I miss her very much. **Kathren Woolard, Huntersville, EnergyUnited**



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**GO ONLINE** Thanks to everyone who sent in pictures. You can see more on our Web site. Next month we’ll publish your memories of the dumbest gifts you ever received. (Deadline was Sept. 15). See the themes and rules of our “Nothing Could Be Finer” series on page 16.



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5. Beside our home we have a pond where the dragonflies are like little dancing jewels all over the place. I love all manner of wildlife, and I have passed this along to my daughter who isn't afraid of anything buggy, furry, crawly or flyie. On the evening this picture was taken we were all out in the yard tinkering in the flowerbeds. We happened to notice a dragonfly land on a nearby tree and went over to investigate. My daughter, without hesitation, reached out with her tiny finger and slowly put it underneath the dragonfly. Much to our surprise she lifted up her finger, and there he sat. Of course, we made a mad dash to grab the camera. I think time must have frozen for us, because we were able to get the camera and snap a few pictures before he finally decided to fly away from our dragonfly charmer. **Sherry Lovett, Hampstead, Four County EMC**

6. The Jerusalem artichoke has pretty black-eyed Susan-like flowers and grows tubers. Your salad will be enhanced by its crispy texture, and they can be used instead of potatoes in your gourmet cooking. They also are a friend to diabetics. This particular plant outgrew me, so I could get underneath it to show the dark blue sky. My photo won the blue ribbon in the Davidson County Senior Games. **Hazel B. Kimrey, Denton, EnergyUnited**

7. This is Carolina Beach municipal docks just before 6:39 am on May 26, 2005. Carolina Beach has been a family favorite for the last 18 years. **Ken Hall, Garner**

8. This is a photo we took at our home in Wilkesboro. We also have a summer place on the New River that is served by Blue Ridge Electric. **Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bumgarner, Wilkesboro, Blue Ridge Electric**

9. For my son's first Halloween, we found the most adorable pumpkin outfit. We ventured out to Hart's Pumpkin Farm in Goldston for their annual Pumpkin Festival. Carter had a wonderful time checking out all of the pumpkins, tractors and animals. If I were the judge, he would have won first prize for "Best in Show" in the pumpkin contest. **Jodie Phillips, Bear Creek, Central EMC**

10. Since my retirement on May 1, I have enjoyed early morning "meditation walks" along the Pamlico River. Up by 5:30 a.m., I have my coffee and then I'm down to the shore. Standing on the end of the dock, I watch the sunrise, my binoculars in one hand and camera in the other. I always watch for signs of wildlife. On mornings after the August fog lifts, the bright sun shines out straight from heaven. Shadows cast themselves on the "slick calm" river bordered by the grand ol' cypress trees and marsh full of cattails. **Julia A. Paul, Blounts Creek, Tideland EMC**

11. I was in my garden one morning, trying to get some shots of butterflies, when a hummingbird unexpectedly flew up into view. **Rebecca Yarborough, age 17, Mocksville, EnergyUnited**



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12. After the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, my husband, Charles, and I decided to re-paint our mailbox. We painted it red, white and blue in memory of those who died that day, and as a thank-you to all of the soldiers who were called to arms. That winter, my dad, Joseph R. Abernethy 3rd, photographed all the mailboxes at the end of our driveway when they were covered with snow. He called his photograph “Cold Glory.” **Cheryl A. Richardson, Iron Station, Rutherford EMC**

13. One of my passions is taking pictures, and another is my dogs, who are my babies. My friends and family tease me about taking my camera everywhere, but they always want copies of the pictures later. On this day I was taking pictures of my best friend’s two children. We were in Hinshaw Gardens in Yadkinville. My boxer Maizy was with us. We were getting ready to pick up and move when Maizy went up to Chase to give him kisses. That just tickled him to death. **Christy Clark, Mocksville, EnergyUnited**

14. This is my 5-year-old granddaughter, Kaelah Weaver, at the Catawba Science Center. **Veronica MacKinnon, Lincolnton, Rutherford EMC**

## Send us your best **Earn \$50**

Here are the themes in our “Nothing Could Be Finer” series. Send us your stories and pictures about these themes. If yours is chosen for publication, we’ll send you \$50. You don’t have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

### December 2005 Holiday Mishaps

Those holiday plans that just didn’t work out as you hoped they would.

*Deadline: Oct. 15*

### January 2006

#### How I Improved My Health

One thing you did that made you a lot healthier.

*Deadline: Nov. 15*

### February 2006 We Made History

Who in your family made a mark in North Carolina history? Send a photo, if you have one.

*Deadline: Dec. 15*

### March 2006 Why I’m a Gardener

The real reason you tend a garden.

*Deadline: Jan. 15*

### The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. One entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mailed or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay \$50 for each submission published. We retain reprint rights.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can’t pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don’t agree to this.)
9. Send to: Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616  
Or by e-mail: [finer@carolinacountry.com](mailto:finer@carolinacountry.com)  
Or through the Web: [www.carolinacountry.com](http://www.carolinacountry.com)