

CAROLINA COUNTRY scenes





1 : Long Beach Egret

Long Beach, N.C., is still isolated enough that an elegant creature like this snowy egret can dart along the beach as the waves rush in.

Jill Gunter | Bear Creek | Randolph EMC

2 : Bailey's Boots

This is my 3-year-old granddaughter, Bailey Grace Wilcox. She has an avid hunger to learn, and she faces every new experience with exuberance. This was shortly after one of our summer "gully washers," and Bailey couldn't wait to put on her new "princess boots" and find out how deep the puddles were. *Patricia Ann Wilcox | Maiden | Rutherford EMC*

3 : Camp Caraway Bridge

The covered bridge at Camp Caraway in Asheboro.

Ken Hall | Garner | Cooperative Council of N.C.

4 : Sunset at Nags Head

David and his son, Joshua, at Nags Head at sunset.

Terry Mays | Lincolnton | Rutherford EMC

5 : Down by the Fish Pond

Growing up on a farm was carefree and exciting, though I am just now realizing this. Farming was hard work with long days. I remember some leisure moments, however. At noon, everyone would come in from the field, eat dinner, clean the kitchen and all would take a little siesta. Well, everyone except Mom and I. I liked to fish just like she did, so we'd grab our poles and walk perhaps a mile to the river to cast our lines. I'd tire of fishing quickly and would explore the streams, the mossy banks, the woodlands. This escape gave us time to be with one another, as well as a change of pace for Mom and adventure for me. Renewed by our excursion, we'd return to work. Except in my mind and heart, I had no tangible memories of these times. But one day, I got this picture of Mom (93 years old now) with her granddaughter, Megan, down by the fish pond. And suddenly all those wonderful memories came flooding back. *Barbara Ratliff | Oxford | Wake EMC*

6 : Waiting for Daddy

There is nothing that my 3-year-old son, Jody, loves more than riding the tractors with his daddy. He will stand and wait patiently half the day for Steve to pick him up. Jody's dog, Riley, loves riding with them. On this day, Jody was waiting for his dad to finish baling the hay so that he could ride down to the barn. Riley was pregnant and ready to have her puppies, but she waited, too. Jody knows all the tractor brands by color and has a nickname for each of his daddy's and Papaw's tractors. He and his dad have a difference of opinion as to which is the best tractor. Jody has on a John Deere cap, and his dad is driving a Massey Ferguson. *Jill Mann | Canton | Haywood EMC*



Thanks to everyone who submitted photos for this year's Carolina Country Scenes. We wish we had space to publish more. You can see more on our Web site at

www.carolinacountry.com. Next month we'll publish stories of your "regifting mistakes." [Deadline was Oct. 15.] To see more themes and rules for our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series, see page 15.



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7 : Sweet Potato Girl

I took this picture of my daughter, Tori, when she was 7 years old. Her daddy had just come home with a trailer full of sweet potatoes to put out for the deer. Before we knew it, Tori had climbed into the trailer, straw hat and all. She is a true country girl at heart, and this picture defines her perfectly. *Maria Rose | Clinton | South River EMC*

8 : Hogan's Creek

This is at Hogan's Creek. I like to call it "Serenity."
Andy Mchone | Ararat | Surry-Yadkin EMC

9 : Valle Crucis Dandelions

This picture reminds me of spring and summer, but also of a special place in the North Carolina mountains. I did not even know this place was there until someone told my husband that there is a trout stream in the park behind the Mast General Store in Valle Crucis. My husband was trout fishing in the stream, so I took some time to see what my lens could find. *Amanda Varner | Asheboro | Randolph EMC*

10 : Bing Cherries

It was a hot July day and my daughter, Caroline, 21 months, had just gotten a new straw hat. She loves hats and wouldn't go anywhere without this newest one. We had just returned from the grocery store, and she was sitting on the kitchen countertop checking out Bing cherries. She had tried them (notice the cherry juice on her chin) but still wasn't sure if she was a fan or not. *Debbie Citta | Lexington | EnergyUnited*

11 : Foster Parents for Orphaned Calves

Each fall on the farm, the cows begin having their calves. The calves in this picture lost their mothers. My husband, Brian (on the right), and his co-worker, Johnathan, rescued these orphans. After this, the calves thought that Brian and Johnathan were their parents and would come running each time they showed up with a bottle of milk. Calves are typically born in November. It is so sad when a mother cow dies, but it's nice to know that the calves will be well cared for. This was taken at Warren Farming Company in Newton Grove, where my husband farms with his father, George, Uncle Gerald, and cousins Brandon and Bartley. *Carrol Warren | Newton Grove | South River EMC*

12 : Bertie County Sunflowers This photo was taken from an unpaved road near Colerain in Bertie County. The land is farmed by the Brown family in Trap. I thought the barn was a nice backdrop for the sunflowers. *Lydia McKeel | Ahoskie | Roanoke Electric*

13 : Beach Angel

This is a picture of my 8-year-old daughter at the beach. I love the softness and the purity. She looks like an angel. *Laura Odem | Dallas | Rutherford EMC*

14 : Morning Fog

This photo always reminds me of fall. It shows the fog and old barn when winter's approaching and the ground is warmer than the air. *Christine Paszko | West End | Randolph EMC*



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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.

January 2007 Diets and Me

What worked, or what didn’t work?

Deadline: November 15

February 2007 The Way We Were

Pictures from the old days, and the stories that go with them.

Deadline: December 15

March 2007 Pests and Weeds

Tell us how you control them in your garden.

Deadline: January 15

April 2007 The Dumbest Souvenir I Ever Brought Home

Where did it come from and why? Send photos, if you have them.

Deadline: February 15

May 2007 How We Saved Energy

Good ideas for home, at work, or on the road.

Deadline: March 15

June 2007 One Time at Summer Camp

Your best summer camp story. Send photos, if you have any.

Deadline: April 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
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