

Carolina Country Life

A gallery of your favorite photos

So many great pictures came in for our annual gallery of your favorite photos. Judging them was difficult and especially sad when some had to be set aside. We have copied a few that we don't have space to publish in this month's magazine and will place them on our Web site (www.carolinacounty.com). We may run some in future magazines. We'll let the individual photographers know if we can do that. Thanks to everyone. See page 15 for this year's remaining themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series.

— Michael E.C. Gery, editor



FAMILY FARMING

Growing tobacco is a way of life for my family. My father, Bill Lea, has grown tobacco on our farm in Eastwood for more than 40 years. He continues to grow tobacco today with my brothers, Billy and Ricky Lea. As a member of a farming family, you help out whenever needed. This photo shows my brother Ricky, his wife Robin, and their son Nolan. Robin is the principal at Union Pines High School in Cameron, but on this hot summer day, she was a tractor driver.

*Donna Lea Ford
Carthage
Randolph EMC*



IN TUCKASEGEE

I took this last fall in the Cashiers/Tuckasegee mountain area on a cold, drizzly day. It was my second visit to North Carolina, and I decided to move here last February. I have felt "at home" ever since.

*Carol Stewart
Lake Toxaway
Haywood EMC*



FLOWER FAIRY ON EMERALD ISLE

Who says Emerald Isle doesn't have its own magic? We even have flower fairies. Gracie Mae Barnes is the daughter of Serenia and Joe Barnes of Swansboro. She's with the flowers at the intersection at Emerald Isle bridge. We are her Nan and Poppy.

*Dale and Deborah Miller
Newport
Carteret-Craven Electric*



THE NEW KID

Our daughter, Meredith, is very proud of her new baby goat. She calls him Baby Junior. He was only a few days old when I took this picture. Meredith and her older sister, Miranda, had gone out to feed the animals when they discovered the new arrival. Meredith has cared for goats since she received pigmy goats Rudolph and Clarice for Christmas two years ago. Living on a farm offers many opportunities for children to discover the miracle of life.

*Rodney D. Little
Waxhaw
Union Power*



WHITNEY'S FIRST DIVE

Whitney was learning to swim several summers ago when she and her mother came over for a visit on a pleasant day. My daughter, Bridget Pratt, was taking pictures with her new digital camera. Whitney's mother was near the ladder holding out her arms and telling Whitney to dive. If you remember swimming when you were a child, your first dive was a big deal.

*Jean Pratt
Lilesville
Pee Dee EMC*

SARAH HELPS SOW

My daughter, Sarah, was helping her father put out the hay over grass seed that we sowed one fall afternoon.

*Denise Clay
Hickory
Rutherford EMC*



LIDA, CHARLIE AND ANNIE

This is a popular duo at Blowing Rock Stables – Lida Keber and her faithful companion, Charlie. Lida is a regular at the stables, working with Blazing Saddles, a nonprofit United Way agency that provides therapeutic horseback riding for children and adults with handicaps and special needs.

Charlie routinely spends time with Annie, a full-blooded, registered quarter horse who never lets height differences stand in the way of mixing it up with her shorter friends. Lida says, "Charlie and Annie have a special bond. They're inseparable."

*Peter Morris
Boone
Blue Ridge Electric*



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WINTER

The Duke farm in January 2003.

*Nancy K. Duke
Statesville
EnergyUnited*



CATCHER, NORTH COVE LIONS

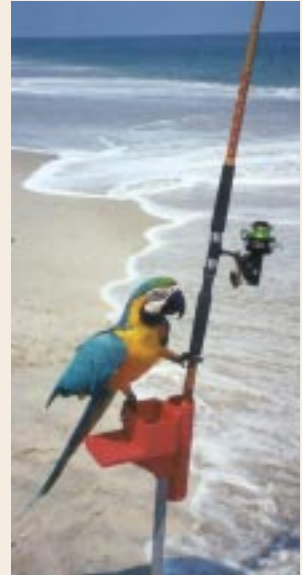
I thought playing softball was a thrill, but it doesn't compare to coaching my girls softball team, the North Cove Lions. I love seeing Marissa's eyes light up when she catches the balls and gets a girl out, or the look on her face when she hits the ball and makes it all the way to third base, or the pride she feels when her Momma is jumping up and down screaming, "That's my girl!" She is 6 in this picture. We share a bond together, and a love of the game.

*Melissa Sisk
Marion
Rutherford EMC*

TRYING HIS LUCK AGAIN

This is my fishing buddy, Squawker, a 17-year-old blue and gold macaw. He moved in 2002 from Harrisburg, Pa., to Avon on the Outer Banks. He loves to go to the beach and fish for the big ones. He also delivers meals for the Hatteras Island Adult Care program. Some Saturdays he can be seen on the Avon fishing pier trying his luck and delighting children.

*Kenn Conley
Avon
Cape Hatteras Electric*



ASSISTANT CHIEF

My husband, Eddie McBride, is an assistant chief with the Lewisville Volunteer Fire Department. On this particular day, he was teaching at a "live burn" training in Lewisville.

*Annie McBride
Lewisville
Surry-Yadkin EMC*



LIGHT BEFORE THE RAIN

One stormy Saturday I framed this shot off the Blue Ridge Parkway near Boone. The light was great, even with the storm clouds overhead. Just after I snapped the picture, the rain came pelting down.

*Lori Smale
Morganton
Rutherford EMC*

HOMER THE HAM

I walked up to the apple orchard one beautiful North Carolina spring morning to take pictures of the blossoms. My kitty, Homer, came along and enjoyed himself as much as I did. He posed for almost every picture.

*Arden Yunger
Murphy
Blue Ridge Mountain EMC*



MARY HARLESS AT 100

This picture of my neighbor Mary Harless was taken in August 2000, just before her 100th birthday. She died in April 2003 at age 102.

Mary Harless loved gardening and canning. After she gave up tending her own garden, she still canned fruits and vegetables brought by friends and neighbors. When she “retired” from using her pressure canner, she loved to come by my house and help can beans.

She made lap quilts and baby quilts, and she crocheted doilies and place mats for special gifts. Her last pieced quilt top was completed by the Women’s Circle of the Sparta Presbyterian Church and donated to the Relay for Life raffle. Mrs. Harless had 23 years of perfect attendance at this circle where she taught the bible study.

Her book, “Mary’s Memories,” sold 200 copies. Proceeds went to the proposed Alleghany Historical and Genealogical Society Museum. Mrs. Harless truly believed, “busy hands and busy mind.”

*Betty Roupe
Sparta
Blue Ridge EMC*

Send us your best Earn \$50

Here are the themes in our “Nothing Could Be Finer” series. Send us your stories and pictures. You don’t have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

NOVEMBER 2003

“The Finest Neighbor I Ever Knew”

Tell us why and send a photo.
Deadline: Sept. 15

DECEMBER 2003

“How to Live a Long and Happy Life”

Do you know an older person who sets a good example for staying healthy and happy? Send a photo, too.
Deadline: Oct. 15

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less. We retain reprint rights.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mail 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.
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: carolina.country@ncemcs.com. Or through the Web: www.carolinacountry.com



CYPRESS

I shot this on a rainy day along the shore of Lake Mattamuskeet near Fairfield. I used 35 millimeter, black and white film, and hand-developed and printed it in my home darkroom.

*Leigh Smith
Belhaven
Tideland EMC*



SUPERVISORS

You're probably thinking this picture was posed, but it wasn't. My father-in-law and his daddy wouldn't willingly stand in front of a camera for \$1 million. Lucky for me, my husband was distracting them with a load of hay.

*Jenny Marsh
Dobson
Surry-Yadkin EMC*



BUDDIES POND FISHING

My sister and I took my son and his cousin pond fishing one day, and the two of them spoke about it for weeks afterward. It reminds me of my childhood when I spent time at my Granny's and Paw-Paw's place with my cousins. We would go into the woods and play for hours until dark. No one had to take us or watch us. We took no toys – only our imaginations. Fireflies, worms and hoppy toads became our friends. I hope my son and his cousin will treasure the memories they are making today.

*Melinda Dobbs
China Grove
EnergyUnited*



SKY AFIRE

A sunset in Fallston takes on the appearance of setting the sky on fire.

*David W. Westphalen
Lawndale
Rutherford EMC*

DO IT THIS WAY, DADDY

One late summer evening, my son-in-law Tommy and grandson Thomas came over to help my husband work with the "family backhoe." A typical 2-year-old,



Thomas was continuously getting in the way, so Tommy brought out his old pedal backhoe to get his son's attention elsewhere. Tommy said his son was "showing me how to work the backhoe." He would say, "Daddy, do it this way." Today he likes riding on the big backhoe even more and still shows his daddy how to do it.

*Lucille Winstead
Kittrell
Wake EMC*