

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

SEPTEMBER 2018

VOTE

2018 WOOD COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

---

OFFICIAL BALLOT

ENCLOSED

---

**HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO  
WIN  
A \$100 BILL CREDIT**

---

**ANNUAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 5**

---

GOV. JIM HOGG PARK  
QUITMAN

**WOOD COUNTY**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## 2018 WOOD COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# Notice of Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given for the 80th Annual Meeting of Wood County Electric Cooperative, Inc. to be held Friday, October 5, 2018, at Governor Jim Hogg City Park, 100 Gov. Hogg Pkwy., in Quitman, Texas, at 2 p.m. Also included with this notice is the ballot for the annual director's election.

---

## 2018 WOOD COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# Candidate Information



**Pat Lindley,**  
District 1  
Representative



**Brent Glenn,**  
District 4  
Representative

**Pat Lindley** was born in Mount Vernon and attended Mount Vernon High School. He's owned and operated a dairy there for 33 years and presently owns and operates a beef cattle ranch. He's a board director for the First National Bank of Mount Vernon. He also has served his community as a director on the Mount Vernon Independent School Board and as a member of the Franklin County Appraisal Board.

In the electric cooperative industry, Lindley has been elected to serve on the boards of several generation and transmission cooperatives. Currently, he serves on the boards of Northeast Texas EC and East Texas EC.

A Wood County Electric Cooperative board member since 1978, he's served as vice president and is currently president. He has earned the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's highest certification, Credentialed Cooperative Director, which demonstrates understanding and competencies in five core areas of cooperative governance.

Lindley and his wife, Judy, reside in Mount Vernon where they attend First Baptist Church of Mount Vernon. They have two children and five grandchildren.

**Brent Glenn** is a proud member of a fourth-generation Yantis family. He graduated from Yantis High School and attended East Texas State University, which is now Texas A&M Commerce.

Glenn has owned and operated a successful dairy since 1976. He also owns and operates Glenn Cattle Company, which specializes in backgrounding feeder cattle as well as cow-calf operations.

He has served as a Wood County Electric Cooperative board member since 2002 and during that tenure he achieved the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's highest certification, Credentialed Cooperative Director, which demonstrates understanding and competencies in five core areas of cooperative governance.

Glenn and his wife, Diane, reside today on the same Yantis homestead that his great-grandfather settled in the early 1800s. They attend First Baptist Church of Yantis and have two sons and two grandchildren.

**Time-sensitive material**

**OFFICIAL BALLOT  
ON REVERSE OF THIS PAGE**

**Plus a chance to win a \$100 bill credit!**

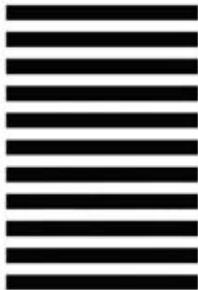
**WOOD COUNTY**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**powered by our members**



WOOD COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC  
KNUCKOLS DUVALL HALLUM AND COMPANY  
PO BOX 1315  
MARSHALL TX 75671-9805

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 186 MARSHALL TX  
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



**Bring this card to the Wood County EC Annual Meeting  
to participate in the door prize drawings.**

**2018 WCEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Official Ballot  
VOTE!**

Returning this ballot by the deadline  
enters WCEC members into a  
drawing to win one of 10  
\$100 electricity bill credits.  
Winners announced October 5.

**Annual Meeting**

**October 5, 2018**

**PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!**

**Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Bluegrass Band**

Noon-1:45 p.m.

**WCEC Business Meeting**

2 p.m.

Prize Drawing Follows Meeting

DETACH HERE and MAIL THE POSTAGE-PAID BALLOT

**VOTING INSTRUCTIONS**

- Detach postage-paid ballot.
- Vote by placing an "X" in the box to the left of the candidates of your choice. You may vote for one candidate in each district.
- Print and sign your name below to validate.
- Mail ballot. Please do not drop your ballot at the co-op.
- Ballot must be received in the P.O. Box by noon, Thursday, October 4, 2018, to be counted.

**2018 WCEC CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Check the box for the candidates of your choice.** This ballot lists all qualified candidates, both incumbents. There were no nominations by petition. Regardless of their district of residence, all members may vote for one candidate in each district.

**DISTRICT 1**

**Pat Lindley**

**DISTRICT 4**

**Brent Glenn**

Print name as it appears on your bill.

Signature

**Please check if you don't currently receive this magazine  
and would like to start receiving it FREE OF CHARGE.**



## The Sound of Music is Oh So ‘Tweet’

*Local landowner turns to native grass program to bring back the sounds of wildlife*

**IT TAKES TIME TO BUILD A REMARKABLE SYMPHONY. AND AS FAR** as conductors go, Julie Mattox is learning to be a patient one. She needs to be, to successfully attract the chorus of birds, bees, crickets, frogs and other natural singers she longs to hear at her home in Yantis.

Mattox was never the desk jockey type, so she purposely built her career on skills that would allow her to roam the great outdoors. As a surveyor, she traveled throughout the United States, spending significant time on the plains and natural prairie lands of Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado. “I’ve always had a love of the prairie,” she says. “Being in the business I was in, I was able to go see property that nobody gets to see—private lands, well-maintained native prairies—and that is, in my opinion, some of the most beautiful ecosystem there is.”

Traveling with the business also brought Mattox and her husband, Jack Stuart, to East Texas, where they bought a home. Over time, they purchased an adjoining pasture and bought out the adjacent dairy farm and pasture. These land purchases expanded their property to just over 73 acres. Initially, Mattox said, much of the property was seeded with coastal Bermuda grass, which they would hay. Then, one day while on a walkabout, she was struck by the alarming quiet. “I didn’t hear anything,” she says. “I did not hear bugs. I did not

hear birds. It was just dead.”

The silence was due, in part, to the nonnative Bermuda grass planted as a single, or monotypic, crop for cattle grazing. To have a diversity of insects, animals, reptiles, amphibians and birds, there must be varied plant life to support them. Across the U.S., monotypic land conversions have resulted in the loss of millions of acres of natural habitat essential to breeding, migration and overwintering of many species of grassland birds. In turn, bird populations, such as quail, dickcissel, eastern wild turkey, eastern meadowlark and other ground nesting birds, also have declined vastly. This knowledge prompted Mattox to act.

She contacted the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which offers technical guidance for property owners. At her invitation, TPWD agents met with Mattox and determined that her property was a candidate for the Pastures for Upland Birds program, which is partly funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. PUB provides cost-share incentives and technical guidance to private landowners to reseed nonnative, exotic grass pastures like Bermuda and Bahia with native grass and vegetation.

Such rehabilitation is potentially beneficial not only to wild birds but also to livestock, especially in prime cattle country



like East Texas. With proper management, native grass and forb pastures can provide nutrient-rich livestock forage. Some studies show native grasses are easier and cheaper to maintain, as well, which lowers production costs while offering sustainable agriculture to improve the wildlife and pollinator populations. Therefore, there's a growing movement among ranchers to adopt the practice.

Once a project plan is agreed upon between a landowner and TPWD, the department provides the landowner with herbicides, native grass and forb seed mixtures, technical guidance and the loan of a no-till seeder. The landowner provides the associated labor for prescribed burning, herbicide treatments, native plant seeding and any supplemental treatments.

TPWD field biologists have identified more than 40 native species of plants for seeding. Some of those species include little bluestem, big bluestem, Indian grass, side oats grama, switchgrass, Engelmann daisy, Illinois bundleflower, purple coneflower, partridge pea and butterfly milkweed. Mattox has plans to add strips of sorghum, white proso millet, black oil sunflowers and shrubs such as plum, blackberry and honey-suckle on her property.

The work on Mattox's PUB plan began in 2014 with an herbicide treatment on portions of her land. (She's since added

additional land tracts into the PUB agreement.) She said it took three applications to get a "good kill." The first planting of native grass and forb seeds took place in the spring of 2015. In addition to the seeds provided by PUB, Mattox added appropriate wildflower seeds to support bees and butterflies. By 2016, she said, the results exceeded her expectations, as dickcissel, meadowlark appeared, as well as chipping, lark, Harris's, song and white-crowned sparrows. She also has noticed abundant rabbits and other mammals. "The property sounded alive once again," she says.

And while birds and small mammals are making a comeback on her property, importantly, so are other species targeted by Mattox and the PUB plan. These include turtles, skinks, salamanders, lizards, frogs, toads and insects, particularly pollinators like bees and butterflies. All those insects will help bring back more songbirds, plus waterfowl and bats.

In addition to seeding, Mattox's PUB project also includes a few manufactured items to support the birds, such as bluebird houses, duck boxes, water trough overflows for additional bird water sources, and shade sources. She's also added feeding stations for songbird seed mixes, which she supplements with suet and peanut butter bark. And she's not forgotten the hummingbirds, providing nectar feeders just for them. Future plans



**Housing for 86 pairs of purple martins, Mattox's first long-term project, hover over her prairie restored through the PUB program. A member of the Purple Martin Conservation Association, Mattox actively supplies data about these migrating guests to the PMCA. This work complements but is not part of her PUB project.**

include adding some bat houses to attract bats to help control mosquito and other pest insect populations. She's also in the planning stage of installing a chimney swift tower to complement the many purple martin houses she installed well before implementing her PUB project.

"It's really inspiring to see a landowner who is willing to take a pasture of improved Bermuda and return it to the native grasses and wildflowers that were there historically," Trevor Tanner, TPWD district wildlife biologist, says of Mattox's efforts. A project of this scale, Tanner says, requires a lot of patience, but there are surprises along the way, such as the appearance of seeds that had been dormant in the seed bank for over 30 years. Once the competition of the nonnative Bermuda was eliminated, those dormant seeds were able to sprout.

Tanner encourages other landowners to consider participating in the PUB program. "The reason for native prairies restoration is to restore and maintain habitat for species for our future generations so they will be able to enjoy them as we do," he says.

To encourage and educate others, Mattox is working with the Rhodes family of Yantis, USFWS and Yantis ISD to host a Prairie Day in Yantis where visitors can learn about the importance of the prairie ecosystem to birds, pollinators and other animals.

If all of this sounds like a lot of work—it is. Stuart, Mattox's husband, supports her as she pursues her passion, but he also has his own hobbies and work. So Mattox does a lot of the restoration work herself while also relying on help from Sergio Olayo, whom the couple has employed since 2010.

Mattox says the whole process takes hard work and time, but it's rewarding from the very first year. One of those rewards was when she started seeing birds and insects she'd never seen before.

"My goal has always been to have a place for wildlife," she

## INTERESTED IN THE PASTURES FOR UPLAND BIRDS PROGRAM?

Visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website at [tpwd.texas.gov/landwater](http://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater) and select the Pasture for Upland Birds Program link under Private Lands. PUB serves the east-central Texas region with blackland prairie and post oak ecosystems. The program is available in 83 Texas counties, nine of which are served by Wood County Electric Cooperative: Camp, Franklin, Hopkins, Rains, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood.

### Process

1. You'll be assigned a local TPWD biologist to assist in the application and funding process.
2. The biologist will conduct a property site visit and help prepare a project proposal for TPWD approval.
3. Once implemented, the biologist will monitor progress and advise on steps to be taken.

### Some of the Benefits of Going Native

- ▶ Livestock forage
- ▶ Healthy watershed
- ▶ Nutrient cycling
- ▶ Maintaining agricultural exemption
- ▶ Erosion control
- ▶ Low maintenance
- ▶ Sustainability

## YANTIS PRAIRIE DAY

**Date:** September 29

**Address:** Yantis ISD, 105 W. Oak, Yantis, TX 75497

**Cost:** Free

Attendees can learn how to create prairie and pollinator habitat. Experts from TPWD, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and others locally will speak. There also will be fun seed and butterfly tagging kit giveaways, face painting and booths with information on butterflies, bees and native pollinator-friendly plants. Ribbon-cutting and refreshments will follow in the outdoor prairie classroom.

Email [debbie\\_rhodes@yahoo.com](mailto:debbie_rhodes@yahoo.com) for more information.

says. "In reality, this was their home first, so I am just their guest here and the caretaker."

And what does she get in return? "Joy!" she says. And she benefits from the gift of the purest and sweetest music there is: birdsong.

Members of Wood County Electric Cooperative since 1996, Julie Mattox and her husband, Jack Stuart, live in a little house on the prairie in Yantis.



Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Bluegrass Band will entertain attendees at this year's meeting.

## WOOD COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# ANNUAL MEETING

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5**  
**Governor Jim Hogg City Park, Quitman**

Entertainment at 12:30 p.m. | Meeting at 2 p.m.

The employees, staff and directors of Wood County Electric Cooperative are looking forward to seeing members at the annual meeting. Before the meeting, the public is invited to attend a concert by the fun and entertaining Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Bluegrass Band.

The dust cover of this magazine contains the ballots for the election of directors for WCEC districts 1 and 4. On the ballot are incumbent board members Pat Lindley, District 1; and Brent Glenn, District 4.

Detach and mail your postage-paid ballot to arrive by the deadline of noon, October 4. Members who send their ballots by the deadline will be entered in a drawing, and 10 of those will be randomly selected to receive a \$100 credit toward their electricity bills.

Bring the other half of the card with you to the annual meeting. This card will be used for participation in door prize drawings. As always, there will be many special prizes donated by our generous vendors. We hope to see you at the annual meeting!



## Wood County Electric Cooperative

501 S. Main St. • P.O. Box 1827  
Quitman, TX 75783

### CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Debbie Robinson

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pat B. Lindley, President, *District 1*  
Lewis D. Young, Vice President, *District 7*  
Cathy S. Roberts, Secretary-Treasurer, *District 5*  
Burke Bullock, *District 2*  
Kenneth Langley, *District 3*  
Brent Glenn, *District 4*  
Jane Roberson, *District 6*

## Contact Us

**CALL US**  
**(903) 763-2203**

**EMAIL**  
**info@wcec.org**

**OUTAGE HOTLINE**  
**1-866-415-2951**

**FIND US ON THE WEB**  
**wcec.org**

### MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES

- Online account access and bill payment
- Paperless E-Bill services
- Free bill-paying app
- Visa, MasterCard and Discover accepted
- SmartPower prepay electric system
- Scholarships and youth programs
- Safety and energy conservation programs

### MOBILE CONVENIENCE CENTER

**Monday**, First Methodist Church, *Van*  
**Tuesday**, Family Dollar, *Mount Vernon*  
**Wednesday**, City National Bank, *Hawkins*  
**Thursday**, Brookshire's, *Winnsboro*  
**Friday**, Economy Drug, *Grand Saline*