

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2023



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Our primary mission is to provide high-quality, reliable electric service at a reasonable cost to our members, improve their quality of life through new technologies and services, be a visible and active member of the community and serve our members with respect, courtesy and responsiveness.

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



ELECTRIC CO-OPS GROW FOR THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE

October is National Co-op Month

BY KEVIN BRANDON CEO

KEVINB@SECPA.COM



KEVIN BRANDON

October is National Co-op Month, and Southeast Colorado Power Association (SECPA) is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

Electric co-ops, including SECPA, exist to serve their members. Our priority is to provide affordable, reliable energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs.

This October, as we celebrate Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways "Co-ops Grow" for their members.

CO-OPS GROW COMMUNITIES: Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement, and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles — and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

CO-OPS GROW TOGETHER: Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies, and better ways to serve our members. We're better when we grow together!

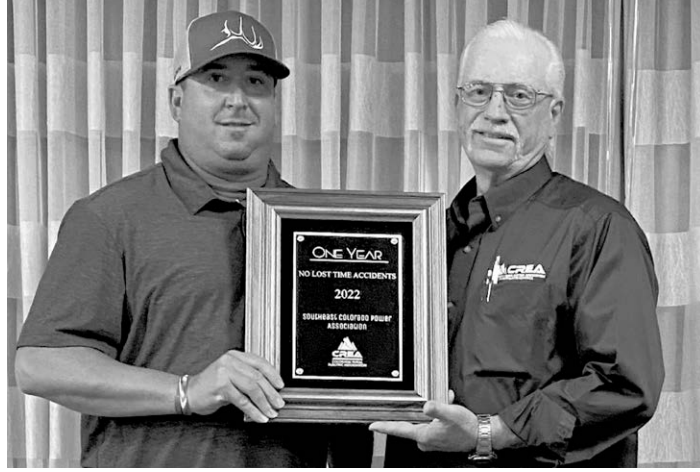
CO-OPS GROW TOMORROW'S LEADERS: Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders through a variety of youth engagement programs. Whether through school

demonstrations, community events, scholarships, or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we're committed to providing opportunities for local youth to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

CO-OPS GROW FOR YOU: At SECPA, your satisfaction is our number one goal. It's why we were formed many years ago to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you!



SECPA Recognized For An **EXCELLENT SAFETY RECORD IN 2022**



▲ Southeast Colorado Power Association Safety & Compliance Coordinator John Parker (left) accepts an award from CREA's Curt Graham at a Safety Conference in July. SECPA had zero lost-time accidents in 2022. This is SECPA's third year in a row to receive this award.



▲ **Front Row** (left to right): Anthony Lobato, Jeremy Jackson, Mike Trumble, Sebastian Wollert, Troy Eberhardt, Jayce Bauer, Jerrod Summers, Trey Redner, Gage Leathers, Larry Chavez, Mark Hall, John Parker, Tom Piner, Monty Moyers. **Sitting:** Luis Rivera, Jacob Barnes, Jachai Eddy, Casey Briscoe, Jose Ramos, Roman Horn, Tyler Schwartz, John Jackson, Josh Stoker. **Top:** Mike Nelson. **Not pictured:** Patrick Wycoff, Frank Rinker, Angel Pecina, Clay Tatum, Garrett Wertz, Clint Arbuthnot, Quentin Duke.

- Checking water
- Rounding up for sale
- Fixing Fence

**INTERNET THAT WORKS AS HARD
AS YOU!**

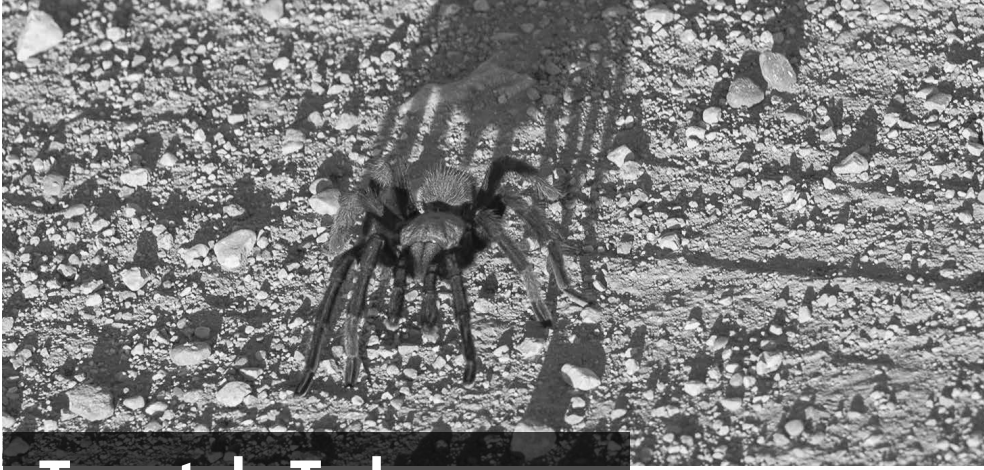
**YOU COULD BE A
WINNER THIS MONTH**

If you find your name in this issue as follows (WIN* your name, your account number), please contact Southeast Colorado Power Association at 719-384-2551 or 800-332-8634 to receive a credit on your next power bill. **Last month's winner was Kurt Tate.**

800.657.7149



Get internet from the folks you know!



Tarantula Trek

It's October and it's that time when some furry, creepy critters crawl across Southeast Colorado. It's tarantula migration season. According to *Visit La Junta* Director of Tourism Pam Denahy, the arachnids scurry to find a mate, and the attention on this annual ritual recently caught the attention of Colorado Gov. Jared Polis. After a social media post about it, people started to come in droves to see it in person.

"That was a big, big promotion for us, but we've been on a lot of different radars including international media outlets that have come to learn about it. We're doing our best to promote bringing visitors to the area in a responsible and sustainable way."

While the attention spurred the creation of a festival, complete with a parade, commemorative t-shirts, and tours, the entire month of October is prime time to catch a glimpse of the tarantula trek.

Denahy explains the best place to see them is south of La Junta on the Comanche Grassland. However, if you plan a visit to Otero County to see the trek for yourself, here are viewing tips from the Tarantula Trek website:

- September is the main migration month, but they will still be active into October and November.
- Ideally, a warm day with little wind is best, and the hour before sunset is the time to see them.
- Head south from La Junta on Highway 109 on the Comanche

National Grassland, but be careful when pulling off the highway and pull off as far as possible.

Now some facts about the tarantulas that we bet you didn't know:

- A male tarantula takes a long time to mature to mating age; in fact, he's not ready until he's at least eight years old.
- The males find their mate using vibration and touch.
- The arachnid can travel as far as 20 miles to find a mate. While these don't come from Oklahoma, the tarantulas found on the Comanche National Grassland in Otero County are called the Oklahoma Brown Tarantula.

- The tarantulas you see are males; the females do not search for a mate. Once the male finds the female, he will do a little dance for her. He doesn't live long; after mating, a tarantula hawk may devour him, or sometimes the female tarantula will eat him.
- A female Tarantula can live up to 20 years.

As a final reminder to enjoy tarantula mating season, Denahy reminds Tarantula Trek tourists to be mindful of staying off private land when out viewing. If you would like more information on the Tarantula Trek in La Junta, head to visitlajunta.net/tarantula-trek/.



Save the date!

SECPA's Annual Meeting

Southeast Colorado Power Association will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2024.

*Please join us at Inspiration Field,
612 Adams, La Junta, Colorado 81050*

Cash prizes are given away throughout the meeting!

BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

The following board positions are up for election:

District 2 – Bent County

District 5 – Otero County

District 6 – Prowers County

5 p.m. – Registration

6 p.m. – Dinner

6:45 p.m. – Meeting



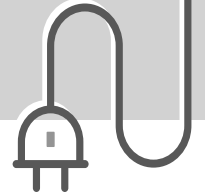
Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Did you know using your dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing a load of dishes by hand? To maximize efficiency, wash full loads in the dishwasher and don't block the arms or other parts that move while the appliance is in use.

For additional savings, turn on the air dry setting instead of using the heat dry setting and use a rinse aid to help dishes dry faster without spotting and streaking.

Source: energy.gov



Leave Tree Trimming Near Power Lines to the Certified Professionals

Can anyone trim trees near power lines? The answer is no. Specialized tree trimmers, certified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in utility clearance, are the only persons legally allowed to trim within 10 feet of power lines.

OSHA requires this certification because electricity is a serious and widespread hazard to tree workers. According to the Tree Care Industry Association, electricity is the leading cause of death among tree care workers, causing about 15% of all industry fatalities. Tree care industry workers do not have to directly contact a power line to be electrocuted; about half of all electrocution fatalities are the result of indirect contact.

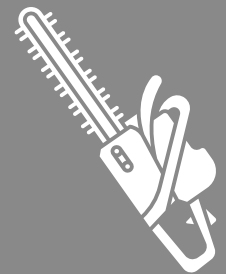
Qualified line-clearance trimmers must be specially trained in how to work safely in proximity to energized lines. They must understand how an electrical grid functions; the effects of tree growth patterns and tree damage; and how to implement directional pruning, as required by the American National Standard for Arboricultural Operations' safety standards.

Please contact Southeast Colorado Power Association if you have any questions about line-clearance tree trimmers or tree trimming near power lines.

(WIN Jordan Wollert, 2007800003)*

Safety Tip

Do not trim trees/branches within 10 feet of a power line or pole. Only certified line clearance tree trimmers are authorized to trim near power lines.



Safe Electricity.org®