

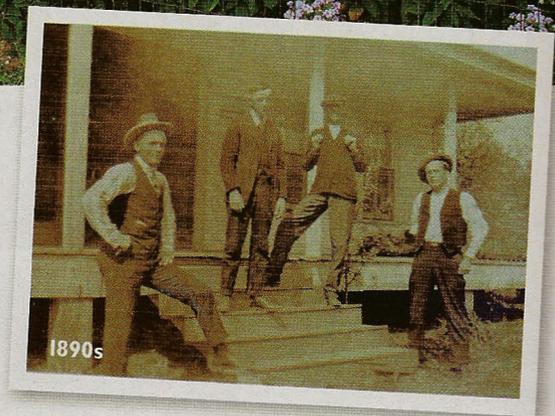


WE LOVE THIS!

Heirloom family quilts echo the cottage-garden perennials in front of this East Texas dogtrot.

“I found heaven on earth!”

A seventh-generation Texan surrounds his restored dogtrot with old-fashioned plants



My maternal grandparents were the loves of my life. I spent as much time as I could with them at their old tin-roofed farmhouse in the Arcadia community in the rural Piney Woods of East Texas. I didn't know it at the time, but the name "Arcadia" was taken from Greek mythology and means "heaven on earth." Though I was raised more

than an hour away, my family spent most weekends on the farm, and now I make it my home.

My grandmother was Georgia Marquette Emanis. Almost everybody called her "Coot." She was a hardworking country nurse and an exceptional cook. My grandfather was Rebel Eloy Emanis. He was Eloy to just about everybody but Grandmother, who called him "Shug." I called him "Pappaw." He was an

outdoorsman, a true character, and an expert storyteller.

They were as poor as folks come, but I certainly didn't know it. It was at their old farm where I learned to drive a 1950 John Deere tractor, back up a trailer, drive a car, shoot a gun, tend chickens, cook, and cultivate a garden. It was on their old porch where I was first intoxicated by crinum lilies, Cape jessamines, mimosas, jonquils, and four o'clocks. It was also on that

gardens DOWN-TO-EARTH



A crepe myrtle allée lines the driveway and mimics the dogtrot architecture.

Greg and his dog, Rosie

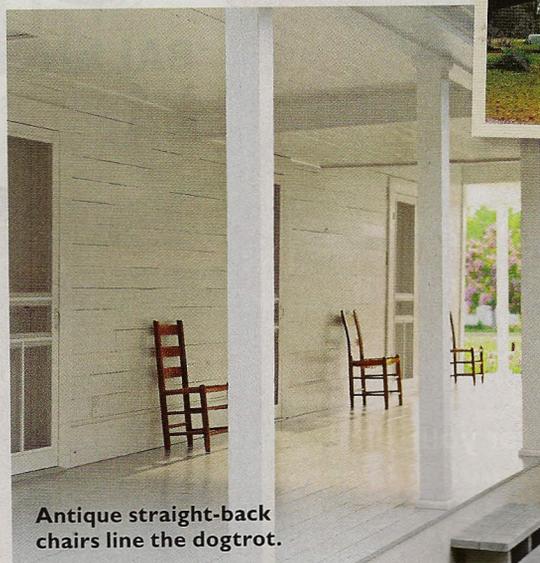


1980s

porch where I learned to shell peas, gossip, and drink Cokes in small bottles (because they tasted better).

Grandmother and I were sitting on the big rock jutting over West Creek at the back of the property when she first told me that *her* grandparents used to own that old house, back when a dogtrot still ran through the middle of it. (After Arcadia got electricity in 1949, my great-aunt and uncle enclosed the opening and lowered the ceilings to make it easier to cool.)

In my grandmother's kitchen, I learned how to make biscuits in a designated bowl of flour. These were topped with an assortment of jellies,



Antique straight-back chairs line the dogtrot.

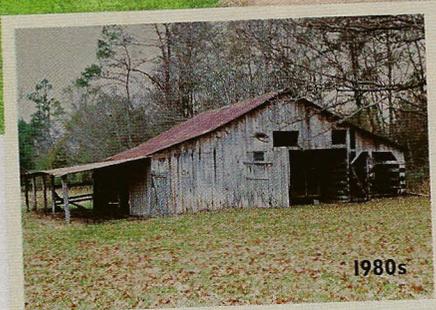
What's a Dogtrot?

Dogtrot homes (also called "dog runs") were popular in the South before electric fans and air-conditioning and had 10- to 15-foot-wide breeze-ways running through their centers for air circulation. The structure got its name because a dog could run right through the middle.

gardens DOWN-TO-EARTH



LEFT: Heirloom sugarcane marches in a row toward the restored barn. BELOW: A bluebird box nestles in the muscadine vines.



1980s

“Gardening is about love and sharing, not about prizewinning specimens and a shed full of potions.” —GREG GRANT

preserves, and ribbon cane syrup.

One of my favorite places to play was in the hayloft of the old barn. I can remember my Pappaw milking cows, slopping pigs, and penning up prized coon dogs and their puppies below. I followed Pappaw like a puppy dog myself. In addition to lessons in spinning yarns and my first four-letter words, he taught me how to farm and grow good things to eat.

He also loved the woods, so in tribute to him, I've planted 6,000 pine trees out back. I've dubbed it the “Rebel Eloy Emanis Pine Savanna

and Bird Sanctuary.” With Arcadia being home to more than 100 home-made bluebird houses, I figured the birds needed a playground too.

When my grandmother asked me what would become of her house when she was gone, I promised I'd look after it. I had always planned to restore the house to its original condition. In 2009, I finally began the restoration. I reopened the dogtrot, raised the ceilings to their original height, and added a new tin roof to return the house to the way my great-great-grandparents knew it.

Of course, the house's simple lines called for a simple garden. I mostly grow old-fashioned plants that belonged to my ancestors, pass-along plants from friends, and Texas-tough plants I've developed and introduced to the nursery trade. I propagated one of my favorite old local crepe myrtles and planted an allée leading up to the house to suggest a dogtrot visually.

I'm the seventh generation of my family to live in Arcadia, the fifth in the same house. It's completely a part of me. If you close your eyes, it seems



Water Wisely

In the old days, most folks in Arcadia had cisterns to hold runoff water collected from their roofs. For homes with no water wells, they were essential for daily life. Even today, electric

pumps on water wells go out during both wind and ice storms, meaning there's no water for the house. And with frequent droughts and water rationing in Texas, cisterns are a practical solution for potted plants and kitchen gardens. The

salt-free, non-alkaline water is also a must for blueberries here. Cisterns like Greg's at right, featuring a clean-out pipe and an overflow downspout, are available from Texas Metal Cisterns in San Marcos (texasmetalcisterns.net).



gardens DOWN-TO-EARTH

like nothing has changed in Arcadia. The gentle breeze carries the scent of corn tassels and tomato foliage from the garden, the perfume of crinum lilies and Cape jessamines from the yard, and the sound of bluebirds and woodpeckers from the pines. My heaven on earth was here all along. 

Tried-and-True Performers

Try these Texas-tough plants from Greg's yard.



1. 'John Fanick' summer phlox (*Phlox paniculata* 'John Fanick')
2. Iris-flowered canna (*Canna x iridiflora* 'Ehemanii')
3. 'Ellen Bosanquet' crinum lily (*Crinum x 'Ellen Bosanquet'*)
4. 'Little Boy Blue' dwarf azure sage (*Salvia azurea* 'Little Boy Blue')
5. 'Cassandra Loos' marsh mallow (*Kosteletzkya virginica* 'Cassandra Loos')
6. 'Pam Puryear' Turk's cap (*Malvaviscus drummondii* 'Pam Puryear')

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (Continued)

Do not take BOTOX® (onabotulinumtoxinA) if you: are allergic to any of the ingredients in BOTOX® (see Medication Guide for ingredients); had an allergic reaction to any other botulinum toxin product such as *Myobloc*® (rimabotulinumtoxinB), *Dysport*® (abobotulinumtoxinA), or *Xeomin*® (incobotulinumtoxinA); have a skin infection at the planned injection site.

The dose of BOTOX® is not the same as, or comparable to another botulinum toxin product.

Serious and/or immediate allergic reactions have been reported. These reactions include itching, rash, red itchy welts, wheezing, asthma symptoms, or dizziness or feeling faint. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you experience any such symptoms; further injection of BOTOX® should be discontinued.

Tell your doctor about all your muscle or nerve conditions such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease), myasthenia gravis, or Lambert-Eaton syndrome, as you may be at increased risk of serious side effects including severe dysphagia (difficulty swallowing) and respiratory compromise (difficulty breathing) from typical doses of BOTOX®.

Human albumin and spread of viral diseases. BOTOX® contains albumin, a protein component of human blood. The potential risk of spreading viral diseases (eg, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease [CJD]) via human serum albumin is extremely rare. No cases of viral diseases or CJD have ever been reported in association with human serum albumin.

Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, including if you: have or have had bleeding problems; have plans to have surgery; had surgery on your face; weakness of forehead muscles, such as trouble raising your eyebrows; drooping eyelids; any other abnormal facial change; are pregnant or plan to become pregnant (it is not known if BOTOX® can harm your unborn baby); are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed (it is not known if BOTOX® passes into breast milk).

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Using BOTOX® with certain other medicines may cause serious side effects. **Do not start any new medicines until you have told your doctor that you have received BOTOX® in the past.**

Especially tell your doctor if you: have received any other botulinum toxin product in the last 4 months; have received injections of botulinum toxin such as *Myobloc*®, *Dysport*®, or *Xeomin*® in the past (be sure your doctor knows exactly which product you received); have recently received an antibiotic injection; take muscle relaxants; take an allergy or cold medicine; take a sleep medicine; take anti-platelets (aspirin-like products) or anti-coagulants (blood thinners).

Other side effects of BOTOX® include: dry mouth, discomfort or pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, neck pain, and eye problems: double vision, blurred vision, decreased eyesight, drooping eyelids, swelling of your eyelids, and dry eyes.

For more information refer to the Medication Guide or talk with your doctor.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please refer to full Medication Guide including Boxed Warning on the following page.