



April 2014 - Newsletter

MISSION

The Texas Hill Country Trail Region will preserve, protect and promote the cultural, historic and natural resources of its 19 counties.

VISION

The Texas Hill Country Trail Region will develop partnerships to protect our heritage and sustain our natural and cultural resources through promotion, preservation, education and tourism.

Fodor'sTravel

Enchanted Rock State Park
(Eric Janzen/KXAN)

Published: Wednesday,
March 26, 2014, 8:34 am



Fodor's: Texas Hill Country new tourism hotspot

NEW YORK (KXAN) — American travelers have spoken, and crowned Texas Hill Country one of the hottest new tourism spots in 2013.

Fodor's released their first list of the year's most popular travel destinations, which they compile according to [visitors on their website](#). They compiled the top 50 worldwide travel locales and the top 50 destinations that have grown most in popularity based on destination-guide page views from searches by American visitors.

Leading the charts in growth of popularity was Texas Hill Country with a 258 percent increase in page views since 2012. Fodor's editors said they attribute the interest to a "burgeoning wine scene," but there are plenty of other events the Austin-San Antonio area hosted in 2013 that attracted a very diverse array of visitors.

New York City continued to top the travel charts in 2013 and Europe experienced a post-recession resurgence, with Paris and Rome appearing in the top ten of the year's most visited destinations. Germany, Italy, Spain, France, Ireland and Iceland all saw page views more than double as well.

The list also revealed warm-weather destinations are popular among Americans – 11 of the top 25 most visited destinations were beach retreats like Hawaii, islands in the Caribbean and the usual Mexican hotspots.

Featured April Events in the Texas Hill Country

Blanco

Wild Woman Weekend is April 4th-5th 2014. Women will pour into Blanco for a weekend of FUN! It all gets under way on Friday afternoon with the "Welcome" reception. Immediately after that we are repeating an event that was a huge hit last year--watch a movie-under-the-stars on the Courthouse grounds (see photo). The next morning ladies will take over the town for all kinds of events. There will be fly fishing classes, vendor market, author readings, brewery tour, wine-tasting, belly-dancing, luncheons, aromatherapy workshop, a 5k and 10k Run and more. On Saturday evening we'll finish with our big Casino Night and silent auction.



Proceeds are split among four non-profits. The Old Blanco County Courthouse Preservation Society, Gem Of The Hills Seniors Community Center, Friends of Blanco State Park and Blanco Library, Inc. We put the F-U-N in fundraiser.

Blanco Chamber of Commerce
830-833-5101

<http://www.wildwomanweekend.org/>

<mailto:info@blancochamber.com>

Burnet

31st Annual Burnet Bluebonnet Festival

Burnet is deep in the Texas Hill Country, in the Highland Lakes region. The city is easily accessible from all directions, located at the intersection of Highways 281 and 29. Surrounded by sparkling lakes and rugged hills all year, it's a scenic drive from all directions. But there is a special magic to the Hill Country when bluebonnets carpet the roadside, hills and pastures in blue at the height of the wildflower season.

Burnet Chamber of Commerce

Phone: 512-756-4297

info@burnetchamber.org <http://bluebonnetfestival.org/>



Wimberley

16th Annual Butterfly Festival

Date: Saturday, April 26, 2014 **Time:** 10:00-4:00 p.m.

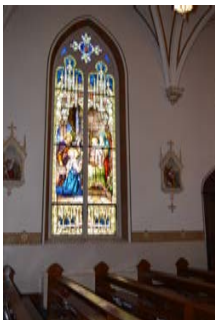
Fun for the entire family. Live release of 3000 butterflies (releases every 30 minutes throughout the day) — Opening Ceremony with Flag Raising, Commemorative Air Force Flyover (weather permitting), and Memorial Butterfly Release - Butterfly Art – Live Entertainment – Concessions – Earth Day Celebration – Butterfly Store – Games – Exhibits



Free Admission – Donations gratefully accepted – Game and concession tickets available. For more information visit www.emilyann.org or call (512)847-6969.

HILL COUNTRY HAPPENINGS....

The Texas Hill Country Trail Region partners met in March at the Fredericksburg Visitor's Center where the Fredericksburg Convention & Visitor Bureau's President, Ernie Loeffler, welcomed them. Our partners experienced a video about Fredericksburg before boarding a Majesty Wine Tours Bus for a drive through Fredericksburg's Historic District, St. Mary's Painted Church, Luckenbach, Texas and Wine Road 290!



Our partners were also able to explore the beauty of Wildseed Farms and enjoy a delicious sack lunch from Wildseed Farms Brewbonnet Biergarten!



The final destination was at Becker Vineyards for a wine tasting and to conduct the Texas Hill Country Trail Region meeting!



JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING....



Texas Hill Country Trail

May Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 2014

1:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Garner State Park

234 RR 1050

Concan, TX 78838

830-232-6132

**OPTIONAL HAYRIDE TOUR
AND LUNCHEON**

Details to come!

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/garner



Texas Historical Commission Texas Heritage Trails Program Update

HT Product Development Projects:

Interpretive Writing Workshops

A contract is in place to develop and lead six workshops and one webinar that teach participants effective methods of presenting stories that make local history more relevant to visitors and their community by enhancing the visitor experience. Specific focus is on interpretive writing for exhibits, outdoor panels, and digital stories. These workshops are offered in partnership with THC's Museum Services Program and the Texas Association of Museum, and are open to museums, historic sites, tourist destinations, and any groups and/or organizations that seek to increase traffic to heritage sites in and around their community. **We hope that you will particularly encourage your partners who are responsible for developing products outside of museums to attend.** The workshop schedule is currently as follows; we'll send along registration information when it is available.

June 2 Sherman	June 16 Alpine
June 4 Huntsville	June 18 San Angelo
June 6 Georgetown	June 20 Mission

WHAT'S COOKING IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY?

Fredericksburg Recipe

GREEN CHILIE LASAGNE

1 lb. lasagne noodles	2 cups cottage cheese
1 Tbsp. butter or margarine	8 oz. cream cheese
3 lbs. ground beef	1 cup sour cream
40 oz. tomato sauce	2 - 4 oz. cans green chilies, chopped
1 Tbsp. sugar	1 cup sliced green onions
1 tsp. garlic salt	Parmesan cheese
Dash of pepper	

Cook noodles, drain well and add butter. Brown beef, drain and set aside. In a large saucepan combine tomato sauce, sugar, garlic salt and pepper. Add meat and simmer until meat is tender. Skim off grease. Set aside. Mix remaining ingredients in a large mixing bowl until soft and creamy. Fill two 9"x13"x2" greased glass baking dishes by layering ingredients and topping with a heavy layer of Parmesan cheese. Cook in a 350-degree oven for 45 minutes. Cover with foil and refrigerate if not ready to bake.



Texas Hill Country Trail Region

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