



July 2015 - 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.

The Powerful Evolution of Texas Wine – Field Report

JUNE 15, 2015 BY MIGUEL LECUONA

City Wine Journal

Fredericksburg, TX



Last weekend in the Hill Country was a highlight on my wine calendar, although I didn't know it until it was over! My work touched five different wine experiences in 24 hours. Each was significant in its own way, and I wanted to take a step back and share a field report, of sorts, with Texas Wine Lover's many readers and fans. [Disclosure: I work as a marketing guide and a photographer for Wine Road 290 and Hill Country wineries. These notes are entirely my own and are intended for general interest in our Texas Wine Industry]

1. Wine Road 290 Momentum

One of my favorite days of the year is a food & wine Event Day for Wine Road 290 in the Texas Hill Country. Last Saturday June 13 was "Vino Al Pastor," where WR290 Member wineries offered sample bites of culinary splendor—pairing off an original pork-based delicacy with something interesting from their wine cards. For my part, it's a favorite day because it's my job to drive around and sample as many of these pairings as possible, and post the details on the Facebook Page for Wine Road 290. Yes, I make these sacrifices for you, doing my part for Texas Wine! I usually check in at half a dozen wineries, and that keeps me well in touch with the pace and pulse of the Texas Wine Experience, talking to many customers, winery employees, and tour operators.

Observations:

Gary Gilstrap of Texas Hills Vineyard said this was the first time he can recall receiving phone calls from wine lovers in advance of a WR290 event, asking about it and wondering what the wineries were going to offer.

Click below to read more...

<http://txwinelover.com/2015/06/the-powerful-evolution-of-texas-wine-field-report-from-the-hill-country/>

Featured July Events in the Texas Hill Country

Bandera

Bandera Cattle Company Gunfighters

Performances are every Saturday (unless out of town with the posse) at high noon and 2 PM at the Western Heritage Plaza in downtown Bandera, Texas. The Bandera Cattle Company, the official gunfighters of Bandera, Texas!!! If yer lookin' fer some real shoot'em ups Texas style then ya' done gone and found it!

Time: 12:00 PM & 2:00 PM

Gunfight re-enactments at Bandera Visitors Center

126 Hwy 16S

Bandera, TX 78003

830-796-3045

<http://www.banderacattlecompany.com>



Lampasas

Spring Ho Festival

Date: July 6, 2015 - July 12, 2015

Event Description:

What is there to do, well, there's the Spring Ho Beauty Pageant, the Hayloft Party Talent Contest, the Kiddie Fishing Derby, the County Fair, the Keystone Square Museum special exhibits, the Spring Ho Carnival, a Dance Contest, the Arts & Crafts Fair, a Pet Parade, the Diaper Derby, a BBQ Cook off, the Spring Ho Dance on the Square in the National Registered Historic District in Downtown Lampasas, the 10K & 1mile run, a huge Spring Ho Grand Parade, Washer and horseshoe Pitching contest, and loads music, clogging, singing in the Park and in Historic Downtown Lampasas and much more! Oh, don't forget the 10k, 5k and 1 mile run! Here's a hint, they don't call Lampasas the "Start of the Hill Country" for no reason! Come on down, you can do it!

For more information contact the Spring Ho Committee at (512) 556-5301 or <http://www.springho.com>



San Antonio

Bracken Bat Flight

Wednesday, July 1, 2015 - Thursday, July 30, 2015

Starts at Natural Bridge Caverns

26495 Natural Bridge Caverns Road,

Natural Bridge Caverns, Texas 78266

210-651-6101

[http://www.naturalbridgecaverns.com/\(S\(feb54r55ju5drar10k1pv545\)\)/brackenBatFlight.aspx](http://www.naturalbridgecaverns.com/(S(feb54r55ju5drar10k1pv545))/brackenBatFlight.aspx)



Overview

Just a few miles from Natural Bridge Caverns is another amazing natural wonder: The Bracken Bat Flight, and for a limited time we are offering the opportunity to witness the evening emergence of the world's largest bat colony. Be there as millions of free-tailed bats spiral out of Bracken Cave and take to the skies on their nightly hunt for insects, in a truly awe-inspiring reminder of how amazing nature can be. For the 2015 season, bat flights will be offered July 1, 2, 4, 5, 15, 29 and 30. August 9 and 14.

HILL COUNTRY HAPPENINGS....

The **Texas Hill Country Trail Passport** is in the works and we should have the final graphic by mid-July to send out for bid to our list of printers. A big **THANK YOU** goes out to all of our advertisers! Here is a complete list of who will be featured:

Bandera Convention and Visitors Bureau
Blanco County Courthouse
Boerne Convention and Visitors Bureau
Casa Navarro
Castroville Area Economic Development Council
Cave Without A Name
Cedar Park Tourism Services
Dr. Pound Historical Farmstead
Former Texas Rangers Foundation
Fredericksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau
Georgetown Convention and Visitors Bureau
Kerrville Convention and Visitors Bureau
Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce
Lyndon B Johnson National Historical Park
Marble Falls /Lake LBJ Chamber of Commerce & CVB
Natural Bridge Caverns, Inc.
Pioneer Museum
San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau
San Marcos Convention and Visitors Bureau
The National Museum of the Pacific War
The Witte Museum
Uvalde Convention and Visitors Bureau
Williamson Museum



JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING....



Texas Hill Country Trail

July Meeting

Thursday, July 16, 2015

1:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:

The Moses Hughes Ranch

7075 W FM 580

Lampasas, TX 76550

512-556-5923

For those of you that would like to meet for lunch prior to the meeting Ron Hall has suggested:

Giovanni's Italian Restaurant
801 S. Key Ave
Lampasas, TX 76550

Arrive at 11:30 a.m.
Dutch Treat
RSVP to hctrail@verizon.net
to ensure we have plenty of seats at the table!



Texas Historical Commission Texas Heritage Trails Program Update

HT Product Development Projects:

Thematic Mobile Tours

Deliverables are organized in three phases with anticipated launch dates:

Phase I African Americans in Texas (launched) and Red River War June 2015

Phase II Hispanic Heritage and Historic Bankhead Highway June 2015

Phase III WWII Home Front, Town Square Walk Around, and La Salle Odyssey August 2015

Phase I: African Americans in Texas is available in web and native app formats. Links to access and download can be found on the TTT website under [Get the Guides and Apps](#) tab. Phase II and III content development is underway including script writing, location filming and images selection.

Cross-Promotional Opportunities with THC Historic Sites – Texas Time Traveler

Solicitation of images for all partner sites is in progress. The exhibit design firm continues developing the design and technology aspects of the project, along with design and fabrication of the physical product.

WHAT'S COOKING IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY?

Marble Falls Recipe

Yield: 8 to 10 servings

JENNIFER CAYCE'S CHEESY SPINACH BREAD

1 loaf of crusty French bread	2 pound baby spinach
2 Tablespoons butter	6 ounces shredded Chihuahua cheese
4 garlic cloves, minced	3 Tablespoons whipping cream
1/2 of a white onion, cut into 1/4 inch dice	Salt and pepper to taste
1 large portabella mushroom, cubed	Diced, garden-fresh tomatoes

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper; place the halves of the French bread, cut sides up, on the baking sheet; set aside. Melt the butter in a deep-sided skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic and onion and sauté for 5 minutes. Add the mushroom cubes and cook for 5 minutes. Add the spinach and cook until wilted. Add the cheese and cream. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until cheese has melted. Season with salt and pepper. Divide the spinach mixture equally and spread evenly on the two bread halves. Bake in preheated oven until the topping is lightly browned and bubbly, about 8 minutes. Remove from oven and scatter the tomatoes over the loaves. Allow to cool for a few minutes, then slice into 1 1/2 inch slices using a serrated knife and serve.



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