



September 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.



**Media Contact:** Rob McCorkle, TPWD, (830) 866-3533 or [robert.mccorkle@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:robert.mccorkle@tpwd.texas.gov) John Barentine, International Dark-Sky Assn. (520) 293-3198 or [john@darksky.org](mailto:john@darksky.org)  
**Aug. 6, 2014**

## Two Texas Parks and Wildlife Properties Achieve International 'Dark Sky' Status

TUCSON, Ariz. – Texas state parks remain among the few public places in one of the nation's most populous and increasingly urbanized states where the starry heavens can be viewed in all their celestial glory with the minimal intrusion of artificial light. [Copper Breaks State Park](#) in the Panhandle Plains and [Enchanted Rock State Natural Area](#) in the Hill Country are the first Texas state parks to be designated International Dark Sky Parks by the [International Dark-Sky Association](#).

Copper Breaks and Enchanted Rock, which were awarded the highest "Gold-tier" night skies status by IDA, join Big Bend National Park and the City of Dripping Springs as the only locations in Texas to have earned the coveted Dark Sky Places recognition. Since 1988, the non-profit, Tucson-based organization has been promoting night sky conservation and environmentally responsible outdoor lighting throughout the world.

"Texas is rapidly becoming a national leader in the dark sky movement," says John Barentine, manager of IDA's Dark Sky Places Program. "There are some really dedicated folks in Texas' parks and communities taking significant steps to protect the night skies and educate policymakers and the public about the importance of preserving one of the state's most precious natural resources."

Since IDA established the Dark Sky Places Program in 2001 to recognize excellent stewardship of the night sky, eight Communities, 19 Parks and eight Reserves have received IDA recognition.

For many years, Texas state parks in rural areas, such as Copper Breaks and Enchanted Rock, have conducted regular star-gazing programs and events to engage and educate the public about the importance of preserving pristine night skies that make the viewing of constellations, planets, stars, satellites and other objects possible. In recent years, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department started recognizing the impact of urban sprawl and resulting light pollution on many of its 95 state parks and is developing policies and lighting management plans to address the issue. Texas State Parks leadership is partnering with the McDonald Observatory and the Texas chapter of the IDA to audit the night skies above the parks and implement their recommendations.

For complete News Release > <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/releases/?req=20140806a>

## Featured September Events in the Texas Hill Country

### Castroville



*Saturday, September 6, 2014*

9:00 a.m. Market Trail Days  
9:30 a.m. Opening Ceremony at September Square  
10:00, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 events at  
Steinbach Haus, Landmark Inn, September Square, Castro  
Living History Center, Moyer Center, St. Louis Catholic Church  
Alsatian Dancers at 12:00 noon Houston Square

**Market Trail  
Days  
On Houston Square**

**SATURDAY • SEPTEMBER 6, 2014 • 10 AM - 4 PM**

Visit five historic landmarks and hear how the people of Alsace, France began their journey in 1844 to a new country and the settlement of Castroville. Take time to look around or have a leisurely stroll down our streets.

**Short Presentations on-the-hour at each of five landmarks.**

**10 am • 11 am • 1 pm • 2 pm • 3 pm**

<http://www.castroville.com/170th-anniversary-celebration-of-castroville.html>

### Dripping Springs

**Saturday - September 13, 2014 - 12 pm to 7 pm**

Come join the Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau at our 7th Annual Dripping with Taste Festival on Saturday, September 13, 2014. This year we'll be located again on the grounds of the new Dripping Springs Ranch Park Event Center in Dripping Springs, Texas. It is the perfect location to showcase Texas wineries, breweries, distilleries, restaurants, chefs, caterers, artisans, and musicians!

**DRIPPING  
WITH  
TASTE  
WINE & FOOD & ARTS  
FESTIVAL**

<http://www.drippingwithtaste.com>

### Gruene

**Old Gruene Market Days / Free Admission**  
Saturday, Sep 20, 2014 - Sunday, Sep 21, 2014

10am - 5pm

Gruene Historic District

In front of Adobe Verde restaurant, New Braunfels, Texas 78130

Nearly 100 vendors offer uniquely crafted items, collectibles and packaged Texas foods. Market hours are 10:00am-5:00pm. Free admission. For more information, visit [GrueneMarketDays.com](http://GrueneMarketDays.com) or call (830) 832-1721.

<http://www.gruenemarketdays.com>




## HILL COUNTRY HAPPENINGS....

**SAVE THE DATE!** The Texas Hill Country Trail Region along with the City of Fredericksburg and Ft. Martin Scott will be hosting a Social Media Marketing Workshop on October 30th!

Mark your calendars and register today!

Texas Hill Country Trail Region • City of Fredericksburg • Ft. Martin Scott



**Social Media Marketing Workshop**  
Sarah T. Page Consulting, LLC

October 30, 2014  
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Registration at 8:30)  
Hill Country University Center Media Room  
2818 E. US Highway 290  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624



\$99.00 - Make checks payable to Texas Hill Country Trail Region  
39350 IH-10 West, Ste. 3, Boerne, TX 78006 hctrail@verizon.net 830-739-1362

This THCTR Workshop is designed to give our partners networking and educational opportunities within our 19 county region. This workshop is a full day event and includes a hands-on interactive presentation (so bring your device), discussion, networking and lunch at Ft. Martin Scott! This workshop is a great way to learn how to market your historical site, destination or business by being connected with our digital world!

**Register Today And Bring Your Device!**  
Lunch will be provided at nearby Ft. Martin Scott!

**Topics will include...**

- Instagram & Facebook Applications
- The Value of Social Media
- Best Practices and Time Frames to Post
- Successes & Failures and More!

*Willkommen* German Heritage. Texan Hospitality.  
Welcome to Fredericksburg, The Texas Hill Country. Rich with the culture of German pioneers who settled here over 160 years ago. It's in our music. Festivals. Architecture. Everywhere. So *Willkommen*, y'all. Enjoy.  
[www.visitfredericksburgtx.com](http://www.visitfredericksburgtx.com)



Texas Hill Country Trail Region • City of Fredericksburg • Ft. Martin Scott

**Social Media Marketing Workshop Registration**  
Sarah T. Page Consulting, LLC

Thank you for registering to attend the Texas Hill Country Trail Region "Social Media Marketing Workshop". We want to make the process as easy as possible. You will need to complete a separate registration form for each individual attending.

If you have any questions about registration, please call 830-739-1362.

**Full Name**  
First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization / Business**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Address / Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**What Social Media Channels are you currently using?**  
\_\_\_\_\_

\$99.00 - Make checks payable to Texas Hill Country Trail Region  
39350 IH-10 West, Ste. 3, Boerne, TX 78006 hctrail@verizon.net 830-739-1362



## JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING....

Texas Hill Country Trail  
September Meeting  
Thursday, September 18, 2014  
1:00 p.m.  
Meeting Location:  
Moye Retreat Center  
602 London Street  
Castroville, TX 78009  
830-931-2233

**Come early at 11:00 am for a tour of the Moye Retreat Center!**

**Lunch will be provided at Noon compliments of the Castroville Area Economic Development Council!**

**Please RSVP to: [hctrail@verizon.net](mailto:hctrail@verizon.net) so they know how much food to prepare!**



## Texas Historical Commission Texas Heritage Trails Program Update

### Websites:

- A feature on the Bankhead Highway began running on the Texas Time Travel home page slideshow. The new brochure came out this month, and it is also available for download from the Get the Guides page.
- Signup checkboxes will be added to the online brochure request forms, allowing users to sign up for the THC newsletter if they would like to. If your region sends out a newsletter, please let Jen know and she will add a checkbox for that as well, so users can opt in and you can grow your list.
- We've received estimates from TradeMark Media on usability updates, but they are on hold until after the start of the fiscal year, pending news on available budget.

### WHAT'S COOKING IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY?

Wimberley Recipe

#### HILL COUNTRY BARS

Crust:	2 cups shredded coconut
4 packages graham crackers	1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
2 sticks butter, melted	1 1/2 cups chopped pecans
	1 14oz. can sweetened condensed milk

In a food processor, finely chop cookies and then add the melted butter. Remove the crust and press onto a cookie sheet. Sprinkle the coconut, chocolate chips, and pecans over the crust. Evenly pour the condensed milk over the entire pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 18 minutes or just until the condensed milk starts to tan up. Let cool and cut into 32 bars (8x4). Eat them all or store them in an airtight container.



Texas Hill Country Trail Region

39350 IH-10 West, Suite 3

Boerne, TX 78006

830-739-1362



[www.txhillcountrytrail.com](http://www.txhillcountrytrail.com)