



December 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.

## LANDMARK INN PRESERVATION

**Landmark Inn will celebrate its grand reopening Dec. 5, 2015.**

**Book your reservation in our new bed-and-breakfast now.**

Landmark Inn Renovations Underway in Castroville



A major historic preservation and renovation project is underway at Landmark Inn State Historic Site, an 1850s historic property and bed-and-breakfast under the stewardship of the Texas Historical Commission (THC). Among other things, the scope of work includes the restoration of several historic structures, the addition of accessible pathways for persons with disabilities, and the installation of other enhancements to improve visitors' experiences. A new museum gallery exhibit and other interpretive features are also planned. This project marks the first major historic preservation work conducted on site since the 1970s and reflects the THC's commitment to managing and protecting the state's cultural resources and historic architecture while providing educational opportunities for the public.

The Landmark Inn was closed to the public in early 2014 to allow staff to prepare the site for the extensive work to be done. Almost everything inside the historic buildings had to be inventoried and removed for storage, including exhibits, furniture, file cabinets, linens, equipment, gift shop items, and office supplies. Many modern additions to the historic buildings were removed or demolished, leaving only the bare limestone walls and pine floors behind. The grounds were cleared of benches and landscape plantings to allow the contractors full access to the site and make way for new improvements.

The THC awarded the contract for this project to J.C. Stoddard Construction, which began work at Landmark Inn in early October 2014. Since then, the contractors have removed most of the plaster from the Vance Hotel, which revealed a thick limestone wall held together by soft mortar joints.

Read More > <http://www.visitlandmarkinn.com/index.aspx?page=1020>

## Featured December Events in the Texas Hill Country

**Kerrville** - Nov 20th - Dec 5th **Chaps! A Jingle Jangle Christmas** 7:30 pm

A musical by Jahna Beecham & Malcolm Hillgartner at the Hill Country Arts Foundation.

830-367-5121 - [www.hcaf.com](http://www.hcaf.com)

**Uvalde** - Nov 21st - Dec 23rd **Christmas Shoppe** 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Handcrafted decorations and gift items. Shop, eat and shop some more at the Herby Ham Activity Center!

830-591-2711 - <http://www.visituvalde.com>

**Natural Bridge Caverns** - Nov 27th - Dec 23rd **Christmas At The Caverns** 5:30 pm - 10:00 pm

We've created Christmas attractions that are unlike anywhere else in the world!

210-651-6101 - <http://www.NaturalBridgeCaverns.com>

**Johnson City** - Nov 27th - Jan 1st **26th Lights Spectacular Hill Country Style** Check website for times.

A season long celebration with courthouse lighting ceremony and fireworks!

830-868-7684 - <http://www.lbjcountry.com/lights-spectacular---.html>

**Lampasas** - Nov 27th - Jan 31st **Christmas On The Creek**

A beautiful display of lights and scenery that light up the Sulphur Creek in W M Brook Park!

512-556-5172 - <http://business.lampasaschamber.org/events/details/christmas-on-the-creek-575>

**Wimberley** - Nov 28th - Dec 29th **Trail of Lights at the EmilyAnn Theatre** 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Enjoy a walking path through 8 acres featuring more than 100 holiday light displays!

512-847-6969 - <http://www.emilyann.org>

**Bandera** - Dec 1st - Dec 26th **Cowboy Capital Christmas and Shoppers Jubilee** Check website for times.

A month filled with musical memories and holiday shopping cowboy style!

830-796-3616 - <http://banderatexasbusiness.com/cowboy-christmas.htm>

**San Marcos** - Dec 2nd - Dec 5th **Sights & Sounds of Christmas** Gates open at 5:00 pm

Enjoy four full evenings of holiday festivities at the San Marcos Plaza Park!

512-393-8400 - <http://www.toursanmarcos.com>

**San Antonio** - Dec 4th - Dec 20th **Ford Fiesta De Las Luminarias** Dusk

Experience the Holiday serenity of the River Walk as you stroll along the San Antonio River!

210-227-4262 - <https://www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com/events/ford-fiesta-de-las-luminarias>

## Featured December Events in the Texas Hill Country

**Castroville** - Dec 5th **Annual Christmas Candelight Open House of Historic Homes** 4:00pm  
This Annual event starts with a re-opening celebration of the Landmark Inn Historic Site.  
830-538-3142 - <http://castrovilleconservationsociety.weebly.com/upcoming-events.html>

**Llano** - Dec 5th **2015 Llano Home Tour & Lighted Christmas Parade** 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Gather around the Llano Courthouse Square so you don't miss Santa's arrival on the Llano fire truck!  
325-247-5354 - <http://llanochamber.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=695>

**Dripping Springs** - Dec 5th **11th Annual Christmas on Mercer Street** 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Arts & Crafts, Live Entertainment, Children's Activities, Food Vendors, Pictures with Santa, & More!  
512-858-4725 - <http://cca.drippingspringstx.org/>

**Boerne** - Dec 8th - 9th **A Walk In Bethlehem** 6:00 pm  
Enter the city, allow the sights, sounds and smells to carry you to a period of time that changed the world.  
830-249-3228 - <http://www.visitboerne.org/calendar/walk-bethlehem>

**Fredericksburg** - Dec 11th - Dec 20th **A Tuna Christmas** Check website for times.  
During the annual Christmas lawn display contest a mysterious Phantom wreaks havoc on the decorations.  
830-997-3588 - <http://www.fredericksburgtheater.org>

**Georgetown** - Dec 12th - Dec 13th **Heritage Society Holiday Home Tour** 11:00 am - 6:00 pm  
The tour will feature five homes along Georgetown's beautiful Main Street.  
512-869-8597 - <https://visit.georgetown.org/category/festivals/>

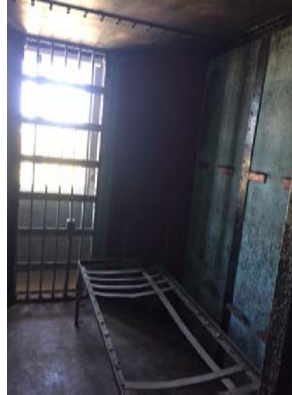
**Buda** - Dec 11th - 17th & Dec 17th - 20th **Trail Of Lights** 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
Entertainment, toasty campfire, hot beverages and concessions for purchase at historic Stagecoach Park.  
512-295-7170 - <http://www.budatxtourism.com>

**Cave Without A Name** - Dec 19th **Winter Solstice with Celebration Circle** 7:00 pm  
Enjoy a highly unusual, but delightful concert of seasonal Holiday music.  
830-537-4212 - <http://www.cavewithoutaname.com/content/winter-solstice-celebration-circle>

**LBJ State Park & Historic Site** - Dec 20th - **46th Annual LBJ Tree Lighting** 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm  
Enjoy carolers, a live nativity, Santa Claus, refreshments and of course, the spectacular tree lighting.  
830-644-2252 - <http://tpwd.texas.gov/calendar/lyndon-b-johnson/46th-annual-lbj-tree-lighting>

## HILL COUNTRY HAPPENINGS....

The Texas Hill Country Trail Region partners gathered in November in Llano for a fascinating tour of the historic Red Top Jail given by their mayor, Mike Reagor. Afterwards, we met at the Llano News for a wonderful time of networking, a delicious luncheon and our regular bi-monthly meeting!



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



Texas Hill Country Trail

January Meeting

Thursday, January 28, 2016

1:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Landmark Inn State Historic Site

402 E. Florence Street

Castroville, TX 78009

830-931-2133

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Lunch and Tour  
Details to Come!**



Texas Historical Commission  
Texas Heritage Trails Program Update

Print Brochure Fulfillment Statistics (September 2015)

Guide name & # per box	Statewide 60	Brazos*	Forest 200	Forts 200	Hill Co. 200	Indep*	Lakes*	MTN 200	Pecos 375	Plains*	Tropical 200
Calls & Written Requests	41		54	54	53			53	53		53
Southern Living	64		64	64	64			64	64		64
Texas Highways	12		12	12	12			12	12		12
Texas Monthly	45		45	45	45			45	45		45
Tour Texas	94		94	94	94			94	94		94
TTIA Insert	2,275		2,275	2,275	2,275			2,275	2,275		2,275
TX State Travel Guide Leads	110		110	110	110			110	110		110
Website	286		115	45	76			40	43		40
# Boxes Requested	69		8	4	6			7	5		10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,067</b>		<b>4,369</b>	<b>3,499</b>	<b>3,929</b>			<b>4,093</b>	<b>4,571</b>		<b>4,693</b>

\*Brazos, Independence, Lakes, and Plains brochures are out of stock. Box Request: Number of boxes x Quantity/bx= total.

WHAT'S COOKING IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY?

Castroville Recipe

PARISA

1 pound very lean ground beef  
8 oz. Grated American cheese  
8 oz. very finely chopped onion

3 finely chopped Serrano peppers  
salt and pepper to taste  
juice of one lime

Mix beef, cheese, onion, and peppers. Add salt, pepper, and lime juice, and mix to combine. Cover and refrigerate for at least 3 hours, then serve on crackers with beer.

Monte Bippert, who helps run Castroville's popular Le Chat Noir restaurant, says that every family has its own recipe for parisa, and that proportions of beef, cheese, and spices vary wildly according to taste. Some families use other varieties of cheese in place of American cheese, too. Here's a basic recipe you can use as a springboard. Use the freshest and best-quality meat available. Texas Highways Magazine



Texas Hill Country Trail Region  
39350 IH-10 West, Suite 3  
Boerne, TX 78006  
830-739-1362



www.txhillcountrytrail.com