



March 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.

Star trails elapsed over three hours while backyard camping on a summer night around Dripping Springs. Photo: Rob Greebon →



Dripping Springs Named The First International Dark Sky Community In Texas

TUCSON, AZ, AND DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX, 11 February 2014 – The stars at night remain big and bright deep in the heart of the Texas – thanks to the hard work and dedication of Texas Hill Country residents. The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) announced today it has designated the first International Dark Sky Community in Texas. In naming the City of Dripping Springs International Dark Sky Community, IDA is pleased to recognize local efforts to protect and preserve the character of the nighttime sky over central Texas. “Dripping Springs joins a select club as the world’s sixth Dark Sky Community,” said IDA Executive Director Bob Parks. “They’ve embraced smart lighting through effective controls that improve visibility, while preserving the night sky.” Dripping Springs bills itself as the “Gateway To The Hill Country” and is often the first stop in Texas for visitors coming from the east. “When people enter the Dripping Springs area at night, many of them notice something is different – the skies over the city are not spoiled by light pollution,” explained Todd Purcell, Mayor of Dripping Springs. “This is evidence that the city and the people who live in and near the city value the natural environment, including the beauty of the Hill Country and high quality of the night sky.” Balancing Economic Growth And Environmental Protection. A formerly sleepy ranching town settled before the Civil War, the city experienced massive growth in the last decade, seeing its population increase by some 72 percent between 2000 and 2010.

To read the complete Press Release in its entirety visit www.cityofdrippingsprings.com.

Featured March Events in the Texas Hill Country

Fredericksburg

Pacific Combat Living History Program (Mar)

Mar 08 2014 to Mar 09 2014

History comes to life with a World War II battle re-enactment including uniformed actors, guns, tanks and a flamethrower! At the Pacific Combat Zone of the National Museum of the Pacific War. Online reservations available and recommended.

Three performances daily at 10:30 am, 1 pm and 3:30 pm. \$7.50 adults; \$5 students; under 6 free.

Address: 500 E. Austin Phone: (830) 997-8600

www.PacificWarMuseum.org



Boerne

Wings Over Boerne

Saturday, March 15, 2014 - 11:00am to 5:00pm

Boerne Visitors Center

1407 South Main

Boerne, TX 78006

Contact phone: (830) 249-7277

Cost: Free Event



The Boerne Convention and Visitors Bureau and Last Chance Forever, The Bird of Prey Conservancy are partnering together to bring "Wings Over Boerne" which is an extraordinary, one of a kind experience. This series of Bird of Prey Demonstrations by Last Chance Forever takes place at the Boerne Visitors Center on three Saturdays in March at 11am, 1pm & 3pm. There is an outdoor presentation and a flying demo with hawks, owls, falcons & vultures.

www.visitboerne.org

Contact email:

wendy@visitboerne.org

Llano

Llano Art Studio Tour - Come to Llano, Texas on the LAST Saturday in March every year and visit with approximately twenty artists in their creative workspaces right here in Llano. Working in mediums ranging from clay, fabric, glass, iron, jewelry, leather, metal, paint, photography, wood and more. Most of these studios are not regularly open to the public so this is a great opportunity to catch the artist with their art, in their creative workspace. Scheduled and unscheduled demonstrations will go on throughout the day. Attend the "After Party" at the Art Guild in the evening to spend a little social time with your favorite artist. Tour Maps available all over town and at the Llano Visitor Center, Art Guild as well as each Art Studio location. Come and be inspired by the art and artists that reside in and around Llano, Texas. We live here we create here. Hours: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

For more information visit www.facebook.com/Llano.Art.Studio.Tour or contact Llano Chamber of Commerce at 325-247-5354.

HILL COUNTRY HAPPENINGS....

The Texas Hill Country Trail Region partners met last May at the Flying L Guest Ranch located at 566 Flying L Drive in Bandera. Our partners experienced a hayride to the Pilot's Lounge to learn about the history of the building and the restoration of the site currently underway. Here is an update of their progress....

The L in the New Lapham's Lodge



Introducing *Lapham's Lodge*



It was a bit cold... but quite a crowd gathered at the Flying L Guest Ranch's historic Pilot's Lounge on the morning of Monday, December 30, 2013 to celebrate the latest addition to the Guest Ranch. Colonel Lapham put the L in the Flying L back in 1946 when he founded the Guest Ranch as a fly in destination, and now the newest addition will bear his name. Ground was broke for the Lapham's Lodge in the groundbreaking ceremony attended by Chamber officials and members, local business owners, ranch home owners, and of course Flying L Guest Ranch management and staff. The projects builder, Scott Asher,

was introduced, and Ed Urbanek, the projects designer, spoke about how the project ties in to the architectural history of the Ranch. Original buildings were designed by Frank Lloyd Wright associates, and the Lapham's Lodge features touches of those original designs. The new Lapham's Lodge, located next to the Pilot's Lounge, will feature 10 bedrooms with private baths, a large great room capable of hosting business events, family reunions, church groups, and other gatherings. The full kitchen will allow groups to prepare meals and snacks for themselves if they wish. Lapham's Lodge should be finished and ready for use in June of 2014.

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING....



Meeting Host:

Fredericksburg Texas
Convention & Visitor Bureau

Texas Hill Country Trail

March Meeting

Thursday, March 20, 2014

1:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Becker Vineyards

464 Becker Farms Road

Stonewall, TX 78671

830-644-2681

www.beckervineyards.com

OPTIONAL TOUR AND LUNCHEON

11:00 am Arrive at the Fredericksburg Visitor's Center located at 302 East Austin Street, Fredericksburg, TX 78624.

11:20 am Load the Majesty Wine Tours Bus for a drive through Fredericksburg's Historic District, St. Mary's Painted Church, Luckenbach, Texas and Wine Road 290.

12:20 pm Explore the beauty of Wildseed Farms and enjoy a delicious sack lunch from the Wildseed Farms Brewbonnet Biergarten. (sack lunch includes a sandwich, chips, and a 20 oz. fountain drink or tea, for \$8.95 plus tax per person) Your choice of Tuna Salad Sandwich, Chicken Salad Sandwich, BBQ on a Bun or Bratwurst on a bun with Sauerkraut. **Pre-Order when you RSVP to Joanne Nelson at hctrail@verizon.net**

1:30 Arrive at Becker Vineyards for the THCTR meeting and Wine Tasting!



Texas Historical Commission

Texas Heritage Trails Program Update

Websites:

We are working with TradeMark Media on implementing a photo gallery feature for the sites, cities, and theme pages. For the sites, cities, and themes that have multiple images, this will give us a way to display those images (with captions) in an attractive and easy-to-use photo gallery format. No info yet on when this feature will be complete, but it is in the works.

Usability Study

The usability study on TexasTimeTravel.com has been completed and we are close to completing the study on TexasMountainTrail.com. We still need to talk to a few more candidates. Once we do that, TradeMark will put together their final presentation on their findings.

SEO Audit

TradeMark Media has completed an SEO (search engine optimization) audit on the websites and presented an implementation proposal to us with their recommendations. We are currently looking this information over and have decided to wait for the results of the usability study before moving forward with any implementations.

WHAT'S COOKING IN THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY?

Uvalde Recipe

BEEF & KRAUT SANDWICH

1/3 c. mayonnaise or salad dressing	1 c. (4 oz.) shredded Swiss cheese
1/4 c. pickle relish	1 (16 oz.) can sauerkraut, drained
2 T. Dijon mustard	12 slices rye bread
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce	
1 c. thin strips cooked roast beef or corned beef	

Combine first 4 ingredients; mix well. Stir in roast beef, cheese and sauerkraut; cover and chill. Spread beef mixture evenly on 6 slices of bread; top with remaining bread.



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