



## BCHS Welcome



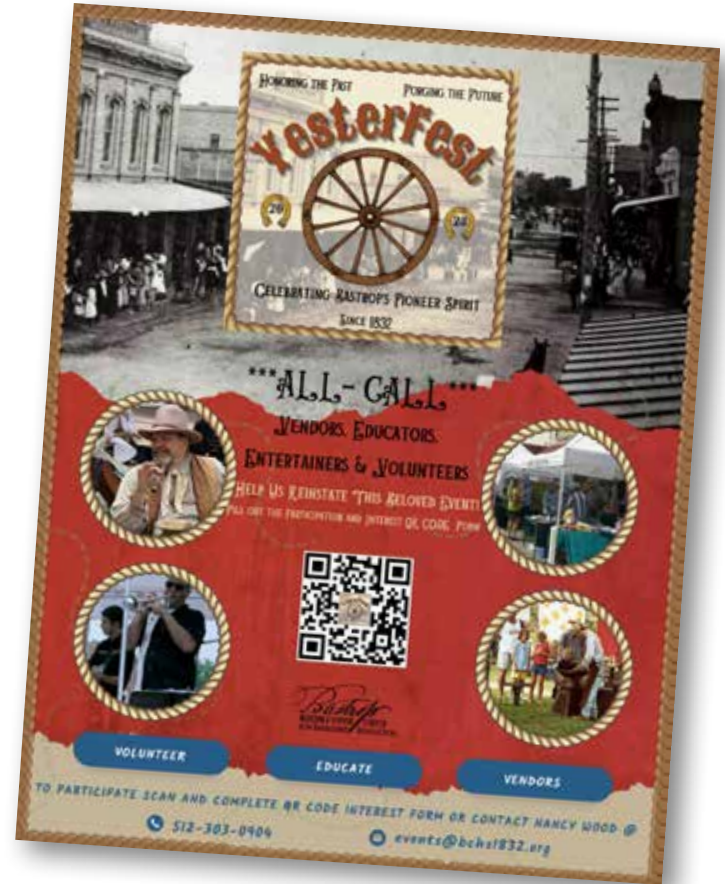
Welcome to a new season of Bastrop Museum & Visitor Center's programs and events! We have an exciting array of offerings that will guarantee fun and learning for all. Our new Events Director, Nancy Wood, hit the ground running with a return to the always popular and "uniquely Bastrop" event of Yesterfest. Our returning Programs Committee Chair, Glenda Dayton, is planning our Quarterly Meetings which are always educational and fun.

Some of our trustees work tirelessly in committees to bring the ever-popular Rendezvous and Homes Tour events to fruition in Bastrop every year. Others work in committees to steward our membership and programs. Our excellent docents and tour guides share the history of Bastrop County with native Bastropians, students, and visitors alike. Our visitors come from all over the country and, indeed, from all over the world. Our many volunteers have astounding skills as researchers, artists, and jacks of all trades. We collaborate with our sister organizations in Bastrop and are forging relationships with other Bastrop County museums. We live in exciting times!

We are grateful for your continued support in furthering our mission of preserving and promoting the history of Bastrop County. We couldn't do it without the support of the City of Bastrop, Visit Bastrop, and the excellent staff and volunteers of the Museum and the Visitor Center. We certainly couldn't do it without our fantastic members! Thank you!

With gratitude,  
Sherri Gilmore

President, Bastrop County Historical Society



## Historic Preservation Month

May is National Preservation Month, and we are organizing several exciting experiences to celebrate the month. Every year in May, local preservation groups, state historical societies, and business and civic organizations across the country celebrate Preservation Month through events promoting historical places and heritage tourism and demonstrating the social and economic benefits of historic preservation.

Join us on Saturday, May 6, from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, for a free tour of downtown with volunteer docent, Judy Enis. We are also offering this tour on Saturday, May 13, from

11:00 am – 12:00 pm with volunteer docent, Ken Kesselus. These historic downtown walking tours are always informative. Each docent has their own take on what to highlight and the stories they tell. If you're eager, we invite you to attend both!

Then on May 1 through June 26, we will have a temporary exhibit on historic preservation in Bastrop. The exhibition will highlight historic buildings and the restoration and revitalization of many facades you will all recognize. Before and after photos will be a highlight of the exhibit.

We are also trying to bring back Yesterfest to downtown Bastrop on May 20. As of the writing of this article, we are in the City of Bastrop permitting process. This event has a 27-year history and has been on hiatus for over five years. Yesterfest 2023 proposes highlighting Bastrop's diverse history through re-enactors, demonstrations, vendors, speakers, storytellers, and music. It would tie to the museum and its exhibits. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help put the event together or has a demonstrable skill that showcases history, contact Nancy Wood at [events@bchs1832.org](mailto:events@bchs1832.org)



Visit Poco a Poco Gift Shop at the Visitor Center for that unique, special gift.  
The City of Bastrop supports BCBS – Who else? See Page 2



## 2023 Leading Members

### BENEFACTORS:

Glen Long  
Virginia and John L. Sinclair Foundation

### MEMBER OF THE MONTH:

Barbara Allbright/All City Realty  
Blue Ribbon Services Inc.  
Bluebonnet Electric Coop  
Central Texas Elevator  
City of Bastrop  
Darling Ingredients  
Karen and Forrest Chalmers  
Darling Ingredients  
Eagle Pest Control  
First National Bank  
Kerry and Steve Fossler  
Frontier Bank of Texas  
G & C Printing & Forms  
Hyatt Lost Pines Resort and Spa  
Sharah and David Johnson  
Medack & Oltmann, CPAs  
Osborn Plumbing, Inc.

### HERO:

Adjust Chiropractors  
Aqua Water Supply Corporation  
Sandy and Ron Barclay  
Jill and Charles Barrow  
Joan and Kent Bohls  
Ann and Larry Brown  
Capital of Texas Roofing  
Sandra Chipley and Chuck Kellogg  
County of Bastrop  
Barbara and Andrew Coy  
Pat and Robert Cunningham  
Glenda Dayton  
Betty Dunkerley  
Traci Frary and Jeff Crouch  
Sherri Gilmore  
Doris and James Kershaw  
Jennifer Leisure  
Jamie and Curtis McDonald  
Carol and Joe Shull  
The Dentists  
L.C. Wright Land and Cattle, LLC

### CHAMPION:

Cindy Aarvig and Larry Hill  
Shirley Barber  
Sondra and Richard Black  
Linda Borsheim  
Deborah Cartwright  
Karen Clardy  
Faye Cobb  
Bryna and Dan Cox  
Pat Crawford  
Nicole DeGuzman  
Judy and Lonnie Enis  
Anita and Leslie Feigenbaum  
Marilyn Glass  
Debi and Tommy Goode  
Betty Gurwitz  
Michal Hubbard  
Idea Exchange of Bastrop  
Stephanie Jenkins  
Carol and Lynn Kysar  
Carrie Martin and Dan Chamberlin  
Rick Neff  
Mayor Terry and Dr. Patricia Orr  
Lynn Oualline  
Eliza Perkins  
Robbie and Terry Sanders  
Suzanne Waugh Sanders  
Libby Sartain  
Nan and DeDea Sayers  
Nancy and Tom Scott  
Ginni and Fred Smith  
Charlotte and Fred Synnott  
Brenda and George Uptain  
Barbara and Alex Vana  
Debbie and Jeff Wahrmund  
Becki and Rick Womble  
Allen and Martha Ziegenhals

# El Camino Real de los Tejas Annual Conference

The El Camino Real de los Tejas annual conference was held April 14 and 15 at the Bastrop State Park and in locations throughout Bastrop. The event featured presentations on trail history, the Camino Crankie artistic performance, and tours of the state park and our museum.

On Friday, April 14 check-in at Bastrop State Park started at 11:30 am with welcome and introductions beginning at noon.

The following presenters were scheduled: Jesus "Frank" de la Teja presentation on The Baron de Bastrop, Ken Kesselus presentation on Bastrop and the El Camino Real, Kay Wesson presentation on Claudia Norvell, the DAR, and the El Camino Real. The Texas Historical Commission then gave an update followed by a break to learn more about local nonprofits at tables they had set up. At 2:30 pm, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department gave a presentation, and the National Park Service gave a presentation on "The Survey 123" app and how you can help to map your National Historic Trail. Then the National Park Service gave a general update.

The evening events included a general membership meeting with the election of Board Members, a reception, and a dinner sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. During dinner, Brian Beattie & Valerie Fowler gave a Camino Crankie performance. The speaker at dinner was sponsored by the DAR, Sandra Chipley "Intersecting Trails: Past & Present Historic Preservation, Daughters of the American Revolution."

On Saturday, April 15, there was a guided hike at Bastrop State Park, followed by a tour of the Bastrop County Historical Society Museum. The day concluded with self-guided historical tours of downtown Bastrop, including the El Camino medallions along Chestnut Street. ★



## Carol Kysar, Library and Research Manager, is retiring!



Carol has been with us since 2010, when she volunteered to polish silverware before a visit by the Texas Historical Commission. She was officially hired in 2011 to manage the move to a permanent museum location. Carol now monitors changes and additions to our computer database, manages research requests, writes articles for newsletters, prepares presentations, aids in exhibit preparation, transcribes documents, and catalogs artifacts. A retirement reception will be announced at a later date. Carol will continue to serve on the Bastrop County Historical Commission and the Fairview Cemetery Advisory Board.

## BCHS would like to thank...

Special Thanks to local artist **Kim Stewart** for painting the red/white/blue Armadillo (the Texas State Small Animal symbol) for display on Main Street during Texas Independence Day and Main Event/First Friday.

**Carrie Martin** for leading a tour of the Museum for Red Hat group from Lockhart and a second tour for 6 students and 5 parents from Calvary Episcopal.

**Bob Malerk** for giving the Museum Gift Shop assorted Texas magnets to sell.

**Judy Enis, Carrie Martin, Ron Ramirez, Rachel Hatch, Mark Mowery, and Will McFerrin** for leading weekly tours of the Museum. ★

# Museum Acquisitions

**Linda Baker** – Genealogical material for Obed Baker, Jr. and Eliza Louisa Cottle: books and documents

**Vicky C. Balcou** – Template for riverwalk mural illustrating poem written by Carolyn Banks

**Vicky C. Balcou and Carolyn Banks** – Poster of Carolyn Banks' poem about the Colorado River at night and Vicky C. Balcou's illustration of the poem

**Bill and Peggy Colbert** – Promotional pamphlets dated 2000 for the development of The Colony

**Vivian Dube** – *In the Shadow of the Lost Pines* newspaper columns

**Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives** – Photograph taken in 1922-23 of the old iron bridge showing the beginning construction of the old steel bridge, with Bastrop landmarks in the background

**Tom and Nancy Scott** – Photographs of headstones in Fairview Cemetery, along with the names, birth, and death dates

**Allen Ziegenhals** – Articles and copies of photos of the Ziegenhals family ★



The photograph of the old iron bridge, built in 1889, alongside the early construction of the old steel bridge in 1923, was sent to us by the Fayette Heritage Museum & Archives. It was part of a collection they purchased on eBay. When they saw it was not La Grange, they started a search for the proper repository. The name "Harry Erhard" was written on the back of the photo. When their research showed he was in Bastrop, they sent the photo to us.

## BCHS Officers

Sherri Gilmore, President   Glenda Dayton, Vice President  
Jane Wright, Secretary   Bob Malerk, Treasurer

## TRUSTEES

Lee Ann Calaway   Sandra Chipley   Barbara Clemons   Judy Enis   Michal Hubbard  
Sarah Johnson   Jennifer Leisure   Ron Ramirez   Joe Grady Tuck

## SOCIETY STAFF

Nicole DeGuzman, Executive Director   Barbara Vana, Office Manager  
Carol Kysar, Library and Preservation Manager   Traci Frary, Archivist

## VISITOR CENTER STAFF

Gloria Perkins, Visitor Center Manager   Candiss Lawrence, Visitor Center Associate  
Martha Huett, Visitor Center Associate   Nancy Wood, Director of Events

## Nancy Wood Hired as Director of Events

Nancy comes out of retirement after a long career that includes work as a performance development professional with over twenty years of experience in Organizational Development consulting, course design and development, program implementation, classroom instruction and team facilitation. She ran a successful consulting business that took her around the world facilitating Diversity-focused training for large corporations. Her work background includes retail management, customer service skills training, project management and corporate sales management. In retirement, Nancy continues to promote Bastrop's unique historic community, and in 2023 was awarded the Anice B Reid Award for Excellence in Community Heritage Development by the Texas Historical Commission for the foundational work she lead during her tenure as Bastrop Main Street Program Director. Nancy retired as Director in 2016 after nine years in the position. As the new Director of Events, she is responsible for Main Event/First Friday and new events such as Yesterfest. We are delighted she has joined our team ★

## Research Library Volunteers

Andres Herrera	Gloria Hoffman
Adela Jones	Ken Kesselus
Kathy Kolhoff	John Lockwood
Mary Lucas	Pat McKay
Dianne Mills	Ron Ramirez
Robin Schneider	Jan Slack
Bernie South	Laurie South
Sarah Stacey	Brenda Uptain
Brad Weber	Allen Ziegenhals

## Visitor Center Volunteers

Carol Calvery	Judy Enis*
Rachel Hatch*	Adela Jones
Bob Malerk	Carrie Martin*
Will McFerren*	Randy Mikel
Lori Mitchell	Mark Mowery*
Ron Ramirez*	Jan Stringer

\*Volunteer Museum Docent

# Spring Quarterly Meeting

Lea Ann, tell us a little about what you have planned for us for Thursday, April 27.

We have a packed schedule! Arrive a few minutes early and take a stroll around Pioneer Village, the period-furnished restored log cabins of early settlers such as Philip Goertz, who brought German Catholic settlers to the area in 1850s. Then, museum manager Ovon Goertz will join me to talk about the history of Rockne, how the town got its name, and highlights of our museum and community. Special guests for the evening include Bernard Probst, who will share the secrets of making Rockne mustang grape wine –and give everyone a sample. Local musicians, including Steve Meuth and Mark

Lee, will play a few songs and talk about Rockne’s musical history, such as the Rockne Playboys, a well-known band that played local dances in Bastrop County from 1947 to the 1970s. WWII veteran Arthur Goertz, 99, who is affectionately known as the “Rockne Cowboy,” will also be a special guest. Docents will be on hand to answer your questions afterwards. ★



Lea Ann Lee, President,  
Rockne Historical Association

**Directions to the event:**  
(From Bastrop, take Tx. 20 S. to FM 535, turn left and follow road for about a mile. Museum is on the right. It is approximately a 20 minutes’ drive from Bastrop.)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 27 AT 6:30 P.M.**

**ROCKNE MUSEUM HILBIG PARK 4065 FM535 RED ROCK**

*Bastrop*  
MUSEUM & VISITOR CENTER  
of the Bastrop County Historical Society

904 MAIN STREET BASTROP, TX 78602  
512.303.0057

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