



Holiday Homes Tour 2023 is a Wrap!

What a year for our Holiday Homes Tour! The weather could not have been better to showcase beautiful historic downtown Bastrop. This tour was one of our most successful with close to 700 people excited at the chance to see the homes and the opera house. Each property offered architecture from various time periods over the last century with beautiful characteristics that made each unique.

An extra special thank you goes to our homeowners who make this all possible. Our homeowners were: Lisa Laky and Tom Palaima, Sara Emmert and Heath Redfearn, Stephanie Jenkins, Sid Burback and Lisa Holcomb, Executive Director of the Bastrop Opera House.

We also had a great turnout of docents who helped lead visitors through each home and spoke of the distinctive architecture and histories of the houses. There were a total of 106 docents working two different shifts with many new faces! We rely on volunteers to make our holiday homes tour a success every year. Our deepest gratitude to all of our docents and volunteers that make this wonderful event such a success.



Great weather, a charming small town and true southern hospitality meant many stayed downtown to continue enjoying our festivities. Upon the conclusion of the homes tour, the Lost Pines Lighted Christmas Parade is always a fun time for all. Our Lost

Pines Christmas, including the holiday home tour sees many folks from Bastrop but also many folks who travel from out of town to enjoy this festive day. We are thankful to you all!



Rendezvous Was a Huge Success!

Rendezvous was a resounding success this year, with nearly 200 people in attendance. The convention center was decorated to the nines with festive backdrops to the special photography of Karen Kahan, Joe Newman, and Terry Hagerty. Partygoers enjoyed delicious food catered by Jean Lang, including the unique recipe of "Doris's Famous Pound Cake," which is always a requested favorite. Homeowners, sponsors, and guests danced the night away with DJ Greg Coy. We want to send a festive thank you to all of the sponsors, homeowners, and volunteers who made this event a success. Thank you to all who attended!



Rendezvous Sponsors

SAM HOUSTON:

Bluebonnet Electric Coop

AYUNTAMIENTO:

City of Bastrop
First National Bank
Frontier Bank of Texas
Sherri Gilmore
Sarah and David Johnson
Doris and James Kershaw
L.C. Wright Cattle Co. LLC

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Connie and Charlie Schroeder
Nancy and Tom Scott
Duffy and Dick Smith
Joe Grady Tuck
David Weekley Homes
Kay Wesson

A Civil War-era sword owned by John James Moncure was recently donated by his descendants and now is on display in the permanent gallery of the Museum.



Historic Homes Symposium recap

The inaugural 2-day Lost Pines Historic Homes Symposium, held Dec. 8-9, was a great success. It provided a unique opportunity for enthusiasts of history, architecture, and interior design to gain insights from experts and explore the rich heritage of Bastrop's historic homes.

Special thanks to our 2023 Presenters: **Mary Bledsoe, Clint Hille, Candace and John Volz, and Robbie Sanders.**

Additional thanks go to our gracious host/owner, **Libby Sartain** who provided a private tour of her family homestead, Ancient Oaks.

Thank you to the many volunteers who served on the committee, were docents, and helped to create a memorable experience.

Plans are already getting underway for December 2024, expanding the Symposium's scope, tours, and attendance. Stay tuned! ★



The **Bastrop Area Cruisers** car club has generously donated 400 free admissions for Veterans to visit our museum exhibits. This donation goes a long way for our military heroes, and we delight in talking to Veterans about their service. Thank you, Bastrop Area Cruisers!

Museum Acquisitions

Glenda Dayton: Archival quality document sleeves.

Cheryl & Elton Bruns: War Ration Books, photos of Miller farm/graves, and copy of *In the Shadow of The Lost Pines*.

Tom Scott: Video of 1989 Yesterfest, Jewel Hodges, The Fire, and Bastrop: The First 175 Years.

Judy Ellis: Camp Swift photograph.

Pat McKay: Photos of the collapsed Casino Hall.

Joe Newman: Digital photos of 2023 Lost Pines Christmas Weekend. ★

Three recent awards to brag about!

- 1) The *Texas Historical Commission* has presented one award in the state of Texas for **Excellence in Museums**, the John Nau III Award. As part of a competitive process among museums of all sizes, we are recognized for our contributions to the community and the state.
- 2) The *Bastrop County BEST* Competition has awarded us the **Best Museum in Bastrop County** and the additional award of the most votes in a category (300 votes!)
- 3) The *Bastrop Chamber of Commerce* has chosen us for the **2023 Nonprofit of the Year** award. Thank you to everyone who nominated us for this distinction. ★

BCHS would like to thank...

Ron Ramirez – docent-led tour of the museum for RV group, Texas Rambling Roses.

Barbara Clemons – refreshments for the Fall Quarterly Meeting.

Laura Ackerman – donation of a variety of crocheted items for sale in the gift shop.

Ron Ramirez – a docent-led tour of the museum for 23 homeschoolers.

Karan Kahan – taking photos at Rendezvous.

Joe Newman – taking photos at Rendezvous and Homes Tour.

Amy Schumacher – professional consulting updating policies.

Tim Wilkins – consulting on pro bono legal advice. ★

Research Library Volunteers

Jackie Givens Megan Hodson Gloria Hoffman Adela Jones Kathy Kolhoff
John Lockwood Mary Lucas Pat McKay Dianne Mills Ron Ramirez
Robin Schneider Brenda Uptain Allen Ziegenhals

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Michelle Adams Jackson Atchley Jill Barrow Rosie Cabrera Carol Calvery
Rebecca Davis Dawn Ellis Stephen Ellis Judy Enis Bert Godkin Debbi Goertz*
Rachel Hatch* Kennedy Higgins Megan Hodson Adela Jones Bob Malerk
Carrie Martin* Leslie Mellenbruch Randy Mikel Lori Mitchell Mark Mowery*
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**Docent*

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Gloria Perkins, Visitor Center Manager Candiss Lawrence, Visitor Center Associate
Martha Huett, Visitor Center Associate

2024 Leading Members

BENEFACTORS:

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Hyatt Lost Pines Resort and Spa

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Brenda and George Uptain
Barbara and Alex Vana
Derek VanGilder
Debbie and Jeff Wahrmund
Lucinda Wilcoxon
Becki and Rick Womble
Martha and Allen Ziegenhals

Winter Quarterly Meeting

Mark Brown, TxDot Historian, will speak about the history and structure of Bastrop's Old Iron Bridge, which recently celebrated its 100th birthday. Built in 1923 and replaced in 1993, the pony truss bridge played an important role in early Texas highway history. Learn more about the early development and eventual replacement by more modern structures, including the current bridge across the Colorado River on Loop 150, built in 1993, and the newest local bridge now spanning the Colorado River on Texas State Highway 71. Members of the Society of Bridge Spitters, a light-hearted group of local bridge lovers organized several years ago by local historian Kenneth Kesselus, will join us. This meeting is also the annual Society business meeting, and all BCHS members are urged to attend. Join us Thursday, January 25, at 6:30 at the Museum. Image of the Old Iron Bridge poster by late-local artist Mike Henderson courtesy of the Lost Pines Art Guild. ★



Board Approved Nominees for 2024

On January 25, 2024, at 6:30 pm, members can vote on proposed bylaws and the trustee nominees listed below at our Quarterly Meeting. A separate mailing will be sent with proposed bylaw changes approved by the Board of Trustees on November 16, 2023.

On November 16, 2023, the Board of Trustees approved the following nominations to the Board for 2024-2025- Returning Trustees: Lee Ann Calaway, Sandra Chipley, Barbara Clemons, Judy Enis, Michal Hubbard, Bob Malerk, Jane Wright.

The Board approved two additional Trustee nominees on Nov. 16, 2023:

Jill Barrow – Jill and her husband moved to Bastrop in June after spending two years renovating their home in the Historic District. Jill was most recently the Executive Director of Historic Waco, which had three house museums and office space in a renovated Victorian home. Before that, she taught middle school science for ten years. Before her teaching career, she was Director of Education for the Mayborn Museum at Baylor University in Waco, where she designed and implemented programming for children. She states that she loves both museums and education.

Les DeGraffenried – Les is a native Texan who grew up in Austin, graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in history and then pursued a law degree at Baylor. He practiced law for ten years in Austin, then joined the State Department as a diplomat, where he traveled the world. Les shared that he was able to apply his love of history all over the world in his career. He was a volunteer docent at the U.S. Embassy in Rome during his time there. Les is now retired. He and his wife have lived in Smithville for a year and a half and report that they are happy to be in Bastrop County. ★

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25 AT 6:30 P.M.
BASTROP COUNTY MUSEUM 904 MAIN BASTROP

Bastrop
MUSEUM & VISITOR CENTER
of the Bastrop County Historical Society

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