



Bastrop

MUSEUM & VISITOR CENTER

of the Bastrop County Historical Society

Quarterly Newsletter

904 Main Street
Bastrop Texas

Winter, 2015

LIBBY SARTAIN BIDS FAREWELL AS PRESIDENT OF BCHS



Bruce Lee, the Actor and Martial Arts Instructor, once famously said; *"A goal is not always meant to be reached, it often serves simply as something to aim at."*

At BCHS, we have not only aimed, we have reached many of the goals set by our Trustees in a Long-Range Plan 10 years ago.

Our new Museum and Visitor Center opened just two years ago with only one exhibit. In the last year, we have opened six exhibits, under the leadership of Trustee Robbie Sanders, to complete our front gallery. Construction has begun on the walls in the Maynard Gallery. We also presented several temporary exhibits including: "The Grey Ghost," "Ascension Catholic Church 150 years," "The Way Things Were: Texas Settlers and Their Buildings, 1860s–1930s," "The Hispanic Heritage of Bastrop County," and two quilt exhibits by the Bastrop Senior Center. Look for a new exhibit in honor of Black History Month in February.

This past spring our Visitor Center hosted the Texas Geocache Challenge including a Spit off the Bridge event, making it one of the top tourist attractions in Bastrop. We hosted 10 tour groups of all ages from 4th graders through Seniors; made presentations


to Rotary, DAR, Texas Downtown Association, and LCRA; sponsored the Texas Ranger Cross Ceremony at Fairview Cemetery; and hosted the Texas Historical Commission Oral History Program. Our location and advertising initiatives, including a new website, increased Museum visitors by 400 percent, and tourists by 15 to 20 percent. We have successfully held garage sales and Historic Homes Tours and Rendezvous to help fund our programming. Our financial health is strong with six months of operations expenses in reserves. And, Nancy Scott and her army of volunteers are planning for our next garage sale in March.

We cannot rest on these laurels, so in 2014 we refreshed our long-range plan to take us through the next five years. Our areas of focus are:

- Exhibits and Archives
- Programs
- Awareness and Promotion
- Resources
- Tourists and Patrons

For 2015 we have established some challenging goals:

- Raise \$150k to complete permanent exhibits
- Plan to hire Executive Director by April 1
- Plan and install at least two temporary Exhibits
- Develop and implement archive and artifact acquisition program focused on Bastrop history since 1950
- Develop marketing programs to raise awareness of our research and museum exhibits, and Visitor Center
- Offer historical/tourism programs to target students and families
- Add at least one more fundraising activity

It has been my great pleasure to serve as your President for the last two years. I will continue to serve as a Trustee with Sandra Chipley as our next President. If you have some time to volunteer in 2015, let us know. We will need leaders, volunteers and help to accomplish these goals, which are more than just something to aim at! 

NEW MEMBERS

Sandra Giarrusso
Anne Sommer
Wally and Janet Namken
Family
Patsy Trigg

RENEWALS

Marvin and Anne Beck
Kent Bohls
Murray and Mary Callahan
Belinda Goertz
Roy Grimes
Russ Hawkins
Tommy and Debbie Higgins
Lois Hornbuckle
Mariann and Hank Laughlin
Mikki Meyer
Jack R. Nelson
Robert and Teresa Saunders
Dick and Duffy Smith

KEEP BASTROP COUNTY BEAUTIFUL'S 5th ANNUAL RECYCLE MORE ART CONTEST



Winners of the ornament contest stand with their creations.

An awards party recognizing the winners of the Keep Bastrop County Beautiful Fifth Annual Recycle More Art Contest was held at the Museum & Visitor Center on Saturday December 6, 2014. We extend our thanks to KBCB Volunteers Melissa Middlebrooks and her husband, Scott Selstad, for coordinating the event.

Young artists from Kindergarten to High School made Christmas decorations out of recycled or repurposed materials. Winning entries up to 8th grade received cash prizes and two Bastrop High School winners received Amazon Kindle Fire tablet computers. Decorations were on display at the through December 28, 2014, so family, friends and visitors could see them.

The contest is sponsored by KBCB, HEB and Republic Services. Not surprisingly, the judges loved the children's creative and inspiring ideas. Congratulations to all! 🎁

BCHS WINS 2nd PLACE IN 2014 KBCB FESTIVITREE COMPETITION

Thanks to the participants of the Keep Bastrop County Beautiful Recycle More Art Contest, the Society won second place in the KBCB 2014 Festivitree competition! Residents and visitors alike voted on their favorite trees located throughout downtown Bastrop. We extend our thanks to KBCB for drawing visitors to the Museum & Visitor Center in such a delightful way. 🎁

2014 BCBS HOLIDAY HOMES TOUR

BCBS presented our annual tour of historic homes on December 13, showcasing five homes and one church. We extend special thanks to Debi Moore of Liberty Glenn who coordinated the holiday decorations for both the Crocheron House and the Museum & Visitor Center.

The homes were graciously opened to the public by home and site owners including the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), Karol Rice and Victor Gonzalez, Charles Amos, Dr. Patricia and Terry Orr, Kay Rogers and lessees David Bragg and Dan Hays-Clark. Docents detailed each site's history, legend and structural design. Docents at the Ascension Catholic Church provided visitors with information regarding the meaning behind the structure of their services.

Organizing the tour began months in advance and took the time, talents and energies of a great many volunteers including decorators, docents and others. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who helped to make this such a successful event. Committee members for the 2014 Tour included Doris Kershaw (Rendezvous chair), Libby Sartain (committee chairwoman and Facebook promotion), Sandra Chipley (historical research), Faye Cobb (regional publicity), Neil Gurwitz and Cindye Wolford (exterior photography), Betty Dunkerley (overall

project coordination), Barbara Vana (project coordination), and Cindye Wolford (design of the tour ticket, website administration, local publicity and promotional pieces). 🎁



BCBS' entry in the Festivitree competition.



Lee Jamison stands by his painting of a pioneer wedding celebration.

PAINTING FOR SETTLER'S EXHIBIT REVEALED AT 2014 RENDEZVOUS

The Society gave Rendezvous gala attendees a preview of part of a new exhibit under construction at the museum. The exhibit planned in the Maynard River Room will be "Settlement Life" in early Bastrop. The painting by artist Lee Jamison depicts the true story of a wedding in Bastrop, circa 1830.

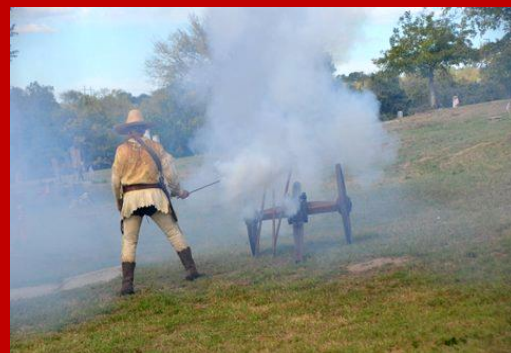
During that time, those wishing to marry would have to wait for a Catholic priest to travel to Bastrop from the missions in San Antonio. It was sometimes two or three years between visits. Until then, the prospective bride and groom would sign a contract to formalize their union and allow for the eventual birth of their children. Then, when a priest arrived, all the couples would come together to be married at the same time. Jamison's painting is based on the story of the marriage of 25 couples. The painting was on display at the event, along with Josiah Wilbarger's desk and a dress worn by Wilbarger's daughter, Mary. ❧

THE 2014 BCHS HOLIDAY RENDEZVOUS

BCHS held its Holiday Rendezvous, "*Holiday Lights in the Lost Pines*," at Bluebonnet Electric Coop December 12, 2014. The gala was attended by hundreds of Society members and event sponsors. The Society hosts this special event to honor our generous sponsors and the homeowners who graciously open their homes to the public during our annual Holiday Homes Tour. The Society thanks our sponsors and members for your support of this fundraising event. Special thanks to Bluebonnet Electric Coop, co-host of the 2014 Rendezvous and to Doris Kershaw, BCHS Trustee, for chairing this year's event.

2014 RENDEZVOUS SPONSORS

Ayuntamiento: Bastrop Computers; Bluebonnet Electric Coop; Chris Cartwright; City of Bastrop; Jay and Maxann Collins; First National Bank; Frontier Bank of Texas; James B. and Doris Kershaw; Lone Star Storage, Bobby and Teri Harriman; Maxine's Café and Bakery; Ashley Mutschink, The Nitsche Group; Techline, Inc.; Wright Distributing Co., Inc. **Stephen F. Austin:** Balcones Resources, Inc.; Bastrop County Board of Realtors; Geoffrey Connor; Karol Rice and Vic Gonzalez; Liberty Glenn of Texas; Ministry of Nuts; Frank and Connie Reichert; TSO - Bastrop, Pam Solly, O.D.; Tuck & Kizer Law Group; WCU Services, Ron and DeLisa Pettit; Kay and Ben Wesson, RE/MAX Bastrop Area **Baron de Bastrop:** Adjust – Dr. Matthew Mix; Barbara Allbright, Realtor, Keller Williams Realty; Bastrop Abstract Co.; Bastrop's Finest Car Wash, Bobby and Stephanie Jenkins; Bastrop Florist; Bastrop Lawn Care; Joe and Nancy Beal; Larry and Ann Brown; Stewart and Sue Brubaker; Centex Mechanical Air & Heat; Clyde and Jeanne Clardy; Covert Chevrolet Buick GMC; Wayne and Glenda Dayton; Betty Dunkerley; G&C Printing; Neil and Betty Gurwitz; Bill Ennis and Dan Hays-Clark; Jean and Mike Helmick; Home Depot; Lucy Todd and Frank Huffman; Rob and Jane Hunt; Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa; HIS Landscaping Service; David and Sharah Johnson; Jerry and Judy Kahler; Chuck and Sandra Kellogg; Toni and Ken Kesselus; Cheryl Long Design, Pure West Pure Vintage; Lost Pines Resort and Spa; Lost Pines Art Bazaar; Zia K. Lowe, RE/MAX Bastrop Area; Medack & Oltmann, CPAs; Terry and Patricia Orr; Osborn Plumbing; Lynn Schaefer Oualline; Paige Tractors, Inc.; Janis Penick, Re/MAX Bastrop Area; Lyn and Tom Phillips; L. Wayne Ross, D.D.S.; Suzanne W. Sanders; Gary and Mary Schiff; Tom and Nancy Scott; Seton Smithville Regional Hospital; Dick and Duffy Smith; Commissioner Gary "Bubba" and Donna Snowden; Sweet Lucy Ranch; and Taylor Family Chiropractic. ❧



TEXAS RANGERS HONORED NOVEMBER 8, 2014

BCHS held a ceremony November 8 to honor the 15 Texas Rangers buried in Fairview Cemetery. Texas Rangers are the oldest state law enforcement body in the United States. Look for additional photos of the event posted on the BCHS website. ❧



Row 1: Tom Scott, Nancy Scott, Michelle Clark, Lucy Todd and Molly McClure; **Row 2:** Johnny Wieting, Lyn Oualline and Frank Huffman

BCHS PLACES 3RD IN KBCB “AMERICA RECYCLES DAY” COMPETITION

The BCHS team placed third in the “America Recycles Day,” contest held November 15, 2014! This event, an initiative of Keep Bastrop County Beautiful, is the only nationally-recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the U.S. The event inspires communities to directly engage their residents to recycle. Thanks to Nancy Scott for coordinating BCHS’ participation and to those who joined the effort: Michelle Clark, Paul Coy, Mike Helmick, Frank Huffman, Molly McClure, Kim Farbo, Lyn Oualline, Nancy and Tom Scott, Lucy Todd, and Johnny Wieting. BCHS will be sure to put the \$1,000 winnings to great use! 🌿

JANUARY 22 BCHS QUARTERLY MEETING: 2015 TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

During our quarterly meeting at 6:45 p.m. on January 22, we will hold a brief meeting of BCHS members to elect Officers and Trustees for the coming year. Our agenda is as follows.

1. **Trustees with unexpired terms (no vote required):** Lee Ann Calaway, Sandra Chipley, Dan Hays-Clark, Barbara Clemons, Lisa Dougherty, Doris Kershaw, Jane Wright.
 2. **Special Advisors to the Board of Trustees (no vote required):** Marvin Beck, Bill Ennis, Tom Phillips, Mark Rose, Suzanne Sanders, Tom Scott.
 3. **Trustees with expired terms (vote required for re-election):** Betty Dunkerley, Neil Gurwitz, Mary McMurrey, Robbie Sanders, Libby Sartain, Nancy Scott.
 4. **One new Trustee (replacing Frank Huffman) presented by the nominating committee (vote required):** Sharah Johnson and any other nominations from the floor.
 5. **Amendment to current BCHS bylaws:** BCHS Trustees voted to change our bylaws, which requires a vote of the membership. Currently new Trustees can only be added at the January quarterly meeting. The Trustees voted to change the bylaws to allow for a special election to fill open positions that occur during the year, if necessary. The nominating committee will choose the nominees to be presented to the general membership at the next quarterly meeting, following approval by the Trustees. Bylaws allow nine to 15 members.
 6. **Proposed Officers (vote required):** 2015 proposed officers of the Board of Trustees are: President: Sandra Chipley Kellogg, Vice President: Betty Dunkerley, Treasurer: Jane Wright.
- As a reminder, our Board of Trustees is the governing body of our Society and is responsible for policy-making, financial affairs, and other activities. 🌿

BCHS OFFICERS

Libby Sartain, President; Sandra Chipley, Vice President; Jane Wright, Treasurer; Barbara Vana, Secretary

TRUSTEES

Lee Ann Calaway, Sandra Chipley, Barbara Clemons, Lisa Dougherty, Betty Dunkerley, Neil Gurwitz, Dan Hays-Clark, Mike Helmick, Frank Huffman, Doris Kershaw, Mary McMurrey, Robbie Sanders, Libby Sartain, Nancy Scott, Jane Wright

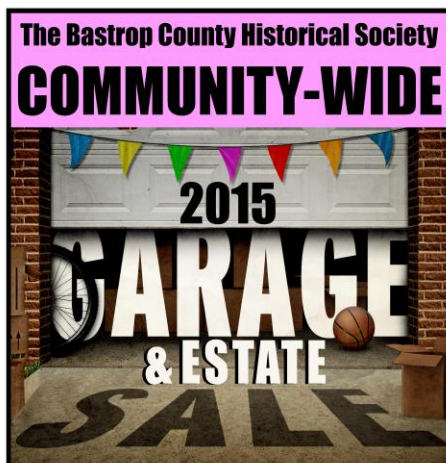
SOCIETY STAFF

Barbara Vana, Administrator; Anne Sommer, Archivist/Curator; Cindye Wolford, VC Director

VOLUNTEERS

Anne Beck, Duncan Charlton, Barbara Clemons, Kathleen Gfeller, Belinda Goertz, Rick Gullikson, Michelle Harris, Carol Kysar, Bob Malerk, Gloria Perkins, Minnie Regalado, Jan Shrode, Ann Tankersley, Tommy Vasquez, Nancy Wood

Our Garage Sale is coming soon! Donations needed!



Friends, you still have time to gather your gently used treasures, antiques, collectibles, vintage clothing, toys and more!!

On **Saturday, March 28, from 7am-3pm**, BCHS will have our **5th Community-wide Garage & Estate Sale**. We will again have our early buyers event, the **Sneak Peek, Friday, March 27, from 6 to 8 pm!** Admission to the Sneak Peek is **\$10 per person**.

Volunteers, we need you! It takes many hours to sort, price and stage

donations for the sale. And, in helping BCHS with this project, you will have fun and make new friends! Join us! Email our volunteer coordinator, and sign up: annwbrown@me.com.

This event is a **Win-Win-Win** for BCHS and for our community! Citizens are able to donate items they no longer need, buyers are able to purchase those items at a greatly reduced price, and the remains are given to local non-profits who are in need of inventory.

March 4, we will open to receive your donations, please see the schedule indicated below.

Once again, we are very fortunate to have the goodwill of our generous community. The **First Baptist Church** is providing the use of their beautiful property, located at 915 Hwy 71 West, which will be the site of the Sneak Peek, and the Garage & Estate Sale. And, **Lone Star Storage** has once again provided us with valuable storage for larger-sized donations. **Thank you First Baptist Church and Lone Star Storage; we are proud and grateful to have the generosity of these major sponsors!!!**

Proceeds of these events support the mission of BCHS, to preserve and promote Bastrop County's history. Help us as we maintain the Museum and Visitor Center and fund the completion of our beautiful new exhibits.

Donation drop off schedule:

Mar 4-6 (Wed-Fri)	10am-6pm	Mar 16-20 (M-F)	10am-6pm
Mar 7 (Sat)	11am-2pm	Mar 21 (Sat)	11am-2pm
Mar 8 (Sun)	1pm-4pm	Mar 23, 24 (Mon-Tues)	10am-6pm
Mar 9-13 (M-F)	10am-6pm		

We cannot accept broken items, paint or other hazardous material. For more information, contact Nancy Scott (512.913.1708) or Barbara Vana, Museum Administrator (512.303.0057). 


BECOME A BUSINESS MEMBER for 2015!

Play an important part in the future in our new Museum and Visitor Center by becoming a BCHS Business Member.

There are three categories of business membership: **Members of the Month**, \$500, includes company name and logo featured on south wall of the new Museum and Visitor Center for one month. Your company name will also be noted on an external display, in quarterly newsletters and on our website, which will contain a link to your business.

Hero Business Members, \$250, will receive visibility on our external display, in quarterly newsletters and on our website, which will contain a link to your business.

Business Members, \$100, will receive visibility on our external display, in quarterly newsletters and on our website.

To become a Business Member, contact Barbara Vana, Museum Administrator at 512-303-0057. 

MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Sandra Kohls Giarrusso – Documents regarding the Vogt family

Ron and Jasmine Holan – Documents regarding the Mack family and military buildings from Camp Swift

David Robinson – Copies of lignite mining photographs and maps

OUR THANKS TO...

Bluebonnet Electric Coop for co-hosting the 2014 BCHS Rendezvous this past December.

Terry Sanders and Alex Vana for changing the Member of the Month signs for the past quarter.

Marilyn Kuhn for the lovely art deco cabinet which BCHS placed in our front window to display artifacts. 

Bastrop County Historical Society Quarterly Meeting

January 22, 2015, 6:45 pm


An Overview of TxDOT's Agricultural Theme Study for Central Texas: A Guide for Identifying and Understanding Agricultural Properties

Heritage Hall Building, 1020 Main Street, Bastrop, Texas

Join us at the next BCHS Quarterly Meeting, Thursday, January 22, 2015, at Calvary Episcopal Church's Heritage Hall Building on Main Street. Our speaker, the historian David W. Moore, Jr., is President and co-founder of Hardy-Heck-Moore, Inc. (HHM), an Austin-based historic preservation firm established in 1983. After graduating from the University of Texas with a degree in History in 1977, Moore accepted a position with the National Register Department at the Texas Historical Commission (THC). His primary responsibility included the preparation of National Register nominations and among the projects he worked on during his tenure at the THC was the Bastrop Multiple Resource nomination, the first such document in the nation. After leaving the THC, he co-founded HHM, a firm dedicated to the identification, documentation, and evaluation of historic resources. HHM since has documented over 200,000 historic resources in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, while the firm's base of operations remains firmly tied to Texas and its rich history and architectural heritage.



A recent TxDOT study includes information about the history and culture of Bastrop County.

Moore will discuss a recently completed study he prepared for the Texas Department of Transportation that describes how to document and assess agricultural properties in Central Texas. The project encompassed a 17-county region that included Bastrop County. The report identifies repositories that contain materials describing the history of agriculture in the region, historic maps that depict cultural landscape features associated with agricultural activities, and types of resources and patterns of development that provide a tangible link to the past. Although the study was prepared primarily for consultants who submit reports and studies for TxDOT-related projects, it contains a wealth of information, methods, and techniques that will allow members of the public to learn more about the history and culture of any rural setting in the region. The study is available to the public at <http://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/env/toolkit/420-03-qui.pdf>. 

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JOIN US FOR THE NEXT BCHS QUARTERLY MEETING JAN 22, 6:45 PM AT HERITAGE HALL, 1020 MAIN STREET.