

**Contact:**

Christy Muse, Executive Director  
Hill Country Alliance ( [@hillcountryalliance.org](https://www.hillcountryalliance.org))  
[.HillCountryAlliance.org](http://HillCountryAlliance.org)  
512.560.3135

*For Immediate Release*

## Deadline for Photo Contest Draws Near

### *Herb Smith describes joy of being two-time winner*



Austin (May 19, 2009) – Herb Smith didn't expect to win when he entered the 2007 Hill Country Alliance (HCA) Photo Contest. "I entered just hoping I'd get an image in the calendar," Smith recalls. He was "very pleasantly surprised" to win the first year he entered. Smith turned around and won the 2008 contest. "The second year, I was blown away."

Smith says he walks along the Blanco River nearly every morning for exercise. "I go out with my camera when there is something about the lighting or colors that make it special." Smith says his prize winning scene in the 2009 Hill Country Alliance Calendar is one he has photographed many times, in different seasons and different light conditions using a variety of photo techniques.

This year Smith is on the HCA photo contest committee and will not enter the contest. His advice for taking a winning photograph is: develop an eye for composition, and pay attention to the light.

The deadline for entering the HCA Photo Contest is May 31. This year's theme is Celebrating the Treasures of the Hill Country and features four categories that explore the richness, the value, the treasures of the Hill Country:

- 1) Hill Country People: individuals, children and families
- 2) Working the Land: gardening, agriculture, ranching, farming
- 3) Hill Country Enterprise: wineries, tourism, festivals, towns
- 4) Natural Treasures: wildlife, plants, springs, parks, rivers, special places in nature

A cash prize of \$250 will be awarded in each category and winning photos will be featured in HCA's 2009 calendar. Visit [hillcountryalliance.org](http://hillcountryalliance.org) to view the beautiful photographs created by 2008 winners and featured in the 2009 calendar.

As an added bonus, Texas Hill Country Nature Photography Alliance is partnering with Hill Country Alliance for the second year on the photo contest and offering \$500 in prize money that may be split by the winner(s) of either category 2, "Working the Land: gardening, agriculture, ranching, farming; or category 4, "Natural treasures: wildlife, plants, springs, parks, rivers, special places in nature; provided the winning photo(s) is created on one of our member properties. Any photographers wishing to photograph on a member ranch may do so, by advance reservation, for \$100 per day, a savings of \$25 off the regular fee.

The Hill Country Alliance is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to raise public awareness and build community support around the need to preserve the natural resources and heritage of the Central Texas Hill Country. Please visit the HCA website ([.hillcountryalliance.org](http://hillcountryalliance.org)) for more information about the contest. You can also find out about the latest news and events, and learn more about our initiatives and how you can contribute to our activities.