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*For Immediate Release*

## **Bringing back the Milky Way**

*Learn now to save energy and money by using “Better Lights for Starry Nights.”*



Pedernales Falls under the Milky Way by Rob Greebon

(May 7, 2013) A dark night sky full of big bright stars is important here in the Hill Country, just like clean rivers, scenic vistas and natural landscapes. Little by little, light-by-light, the magical mystery of the big Texas night sky is diminishing. But it’s not too late to reverse this trend. Directing lights downward and turning them off when not needed makes make a big difference.

Learn how you can do your part reduce light pollution. Bill Wren of the McDonald Observatory, known as the “ambassador of the night sky,” will share his expertise about simple strategies to protect starry skies. “It’s a ‘win-win’ situation” says Wren. “We can have effective, cost-efficient lighting without polluting the night sky.”

The program will take place next Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Cactus Room of the Uvalde Convention Center - hosted by The Rotary Club of Uvalde and Hill Country Alliance. This event begins at 7:30 pm (doors open at 7:00) and is free and open to the public.

HCA has been partnering with the McDonald Observatory and local Hill Country community organization’s creating an entire menu of programs aimed at reducing light pollution. Workshops have recently been hosted in Junction, Fredericksburg, Johnson City, Llano and Kerrville. A “Night Sky Coop” was formed in 2011 where landowners and businesses take a voluntary pledge to end light trespass from their land. In 2012, a new chamber of commerce recognition program was created where businesses are acknowledged for being night sky friendly.

More information about protecting the Night Skies of the Hill Country can be found at [www.hillcountrynightskies.org](http://www.hillcountrynightskies.org)

*The Hill Country Alliance (HCA) 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, [www.hillcountryalliance.org](http://www.hillcountryalliance.org), for more information about the latest news, events and initiatives, and how you can contribute to our activities.*

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