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Bringing back the Milky Way

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

The Hill Country Alliance (HCA) presents a tour of events March 25th through March 28th to further a movement to foster a night sky friendly Hill Country. Programs will take place in Kerrville, Fredericksburg, Llano and Johnson City. Working with local partners, HCA has created a model workshop to teach and inspire ways to protect our night sky from light pollution.

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.”

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 a big difference.

“By spreading the word, neighbor to neighbor, we can all do our part to significantly reduce light pollution in our communities. You can see the difference we have made by driving Main Street in Junction where the 101 of the city’s street lights have recently been retrofitted. Not only is it a win for tourism in the area, but the upgrades are also energy efficient and saving the city on its utility bills. Chambers of Commerce are jumping on board with Business Recognition Programs adopted in Blanco and Junction and cities and counties are passing resolutions across the Hill Country region. There is a tremendous momentum for change right now,” said Bill Neiman, HCA Board Member and Night Sky Team leader.

Better Lights for Starry Nights Program schedule:

March 25th in Kerrville at 7:00 pm – Hosted with the Texas Master Naturalists, Hill Country Chapter at the UGRA Headquarters building.

March 26th in Fredericksburg at 7:00 pm – Hosted with the Hill Country Land Trust at the Texas Tech Hill Country University Center.

March 27th in Llano at 7:00 pm – Hosted with the Hill Country Land Trust at Llano County Public Library

March 28th in Johnson City at 7:00 pm – Hosted with the Pedernales Electric Cooperative and the Hill Country Land Trust at the LBJ National Historical Park

More information about protecting the Night Skies of the Hill Country can be found at www.hillcountryskies.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, for more information about the latest news, events and initiatives, and how you can contribute to our activities.

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