

**Contact:**

Christy Muse, Executive Director  
Hill Country Alliance  
[christy@hillcountryalliance.org](mailto:christy@hillcountryalliance.org)  
512.560.3135

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## **Better Lights for Starry Nights**

*Learn now to save energy and money, preserve our night skies and enjoy some star gazing, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm at Star Hill Ranch in Bee Cave.*

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 will share his expertise about valuable 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."

This event is free and open to the public; hosted by Commissioner Karen Huber, Don Walden of Falcon Head, Hamilton Pool Road Scenic Corridor Coalition (HPRSCC), and the Hill Country Alliance (HCA). "Our hope is to start spreading the word, neighbor to neighbor, that if we all do our part we can significantly reduce light pollution in our communities. After seeing Bill's presentation, I couldn't help but notice how much light is being wasted. That translates directly to money wasted, which is definitely something to pay attention to" said Christy Muse, Executive Director of HCA.

Star Hill Ranch is located just past Bee Cave Elementary on Hamilton Pool Road. The program will begin at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, Oct 2, 2012. Following Bill's presentation and when the sun sets, there will be time for all to enjoy the stars together. Kids are welcome.

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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