February 16 – **Explore Texas School for the Deaf**  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m., 1102 South Congress Ave., 78704.

February 26 – **Austin Guitar Salon** – The Old School 7:00 pm, 1604 E. 11th St., 78702.

February 28 – **Historic Landmark Commission Meeting**  
7:00 p.m., Austin City Hall. Please call 512.974.3530 for more information.

March 25 – **Heritage Homes Tour Breakfast** – “Abner Cook” 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., Neill-Cochran House Museum.

March 26 – **Austin Guitar Salon** – McClendon-Kozmetsky House 7:00 p.m., 1001 W. 17th St., 78703.

March 28 – **Historic Landmark Commission Meeting**  
7:00 p.m., Austin City Hall. Please call 512.974.3530 for more information.

April 6 – **Heritage Homes Tour Luncheon** – “Governor’s Mansion Restoration” 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Bullock Texas State History Museum.

April 9 – **Heritage Homes Tour** “The Bold & Beautiful”, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Tickets to Events available at www.heritagesocietyaustin.org or 474-5198.*
the Heritage Society of Austin (HSA) has actively engaged in the current review of the City’s Historic Landmark Program and has developed a set of recommendations that we believe will make substantive improvements to it.

In preparing these recommendations, HSA representatives attended meetings of the Historic Landmark Commission’s Operations Committee, and reviewed information from a number of other sources. We went back to the founding documents and official reports to see what City leaders had prescribed for the program over the years. The opening words of the Austin City Code relate the purpose of the Historic Landmark Program as follows:

Historic Landmark Preservation Declaration of Policy:
The City Council hereby finds and declares as a matter of public policy that the protection, enhancement, preservation and use of historic landmarks is a public necessity and is required in the interest of the culture, prosperity, education and general welfare of the people. Sec. 45-43 Austin City Code.

We reviewed the 1981 City of Austin Preservation Plan, which was based on a lengthy study with many recommendations that seem as fresh today as they did 30 years ago, but which have never been implemented. Among those were the strong recommendations for conducting a comprehensive survey of the City’s cultural resources, hiring of adequate professional staff for administering the program and increasing programmatic emphasis on neighborhood preservation through local historic districts. Over the years the Heritage Society of Austin has repeatedly called for those actions as essential to developing a successful preservation program.

Our Historic Landmark Program recommendations include administrative changes to assure that the process of designating and managing Historic Landmarks is careful and thorough; we also recommend adjustments to the tax incentive structure that will continue to encourage preservation while assuring that the effect on ad valorem tax income is limited to a very minimal percentage of revenues.

Landmarks Program Administration
1. Revise the current application format to provide a checklist that indicates inclusion or non-availability of all pertinent information regarding the potential landmark structure or site. Require that all applications be fully complete, with express
Explore the Texas School for the Deaf

You are invited to a special opportunity to learn more about the rich history of this major institution in the heart of Austin. Program will include a tour of the historic buildings on campus and a talk on the History of the School and Deaf Culture. The evening will begin with a reception with refreshments prepared by the school’s Culinary Arts students.

**Wednesday, February 16, 2011**

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

1102 South Congress Ave., 78704

Free for HSA Members • rsvp@hsaustin.org or 474-5198

Enter campus via the South Congress Street Entrance, which is just past Riverside Drive on the west side of Congress. Park in any spaces found just inside the gate and you will be directed to the reception. See Map on HSA website.
authority given to the Historic Preservation Officer or Historic Landmark Commission to reject incomplete applications.

2. Revise the criteria for Landmark Designations to ensure that designated properties meet the Designation Criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places, as managed by the National Parks Service under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior.

3. Recognize that revisions to the landmark incentive structure and to the administration of the Landmarks Program, as identified here, should effectively serve to limit the number of owner-initiated residential landmark designations without the need for an annual cap in the number of designations; however, after a period of two years to test this assumption, if the number of cases is deemed problematic, consider setting an annual limit of 24 owner initiated cases, excluding properties located in the Homestead Preservation District.

4. Strengthen the annual inspection to provide meaningful and comprehensive review and enforcement of each landmark for compliance with applicable criteria and maintenance requirements.

5. Add a fee to the annual Application for Historic or Archeological Site Property Tax Exemption to cover the cost of inspection, review and enforcement; dedicate fees from these and all other Preservation Program applications to an Enterprise Fund to provide additional resources to the Historic Landmark Program.

6. Ensure that reviews of applications for Certificates of Appropriateness are based solely on the established Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties and applicable design standards for Local Historic Districts.

7. Ensure compliance with the Texas Historical Commission’s requirements to maintain Certified Local Government status for the City of Austin.

8. Affiliate the City Landmarks Program with the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions and require staff and commission members to participate annually in the NAPC-approved professional training (or comparable training opportunities) and to adhere to NAPC’s Code of Ethics for Commissioners and staff.

Incentives for Preservation

1. Establish a set of incentives for owner-occupied residential landmarks designated after the effective date identified below, based on a percentage of the total appraised property value, that offers a tax incentive with an annually adjusted hard cap.

   The tax rate would be levied against 70% of total appraised value (100% of land and improvement combined), with the incentive subject to a hard cap set at the amount of tax exemption of the average value of all landmarked properties.

   Offer an additional incentive for rehabilitation equal to that offered by the Local Historic District program (at non-Homestead Preservation District levels).

   Owner-occupied landmarks would become eligible for the rehabilitation incentive currently offered at Sec. 11-1-81 et seq (freeze on total added-value for a qualified rehabilitation to a landmark for 7 years, provided that the owner spends at least 25% of improvement value on the rehabilitation).

   Conduct a review of the incentive program automatically if the total impact on ad valorem tax revenues reaches one-half of one percent of the total annual ad valorem tax revenues of any taxing jurisdiction.

   Choose the effective date of implementation from one of the following options:

   a. June 10, 2010, identified as the date of City Council’s resolution directing the Historic Landmark Commission to review the existing Landmark Program; OR

   b. The effective date of Council-adopted revisions to the Historic Landmark incentive structure; OR

   c. January 1, 2010, identified as the date after which City Council began to advise applicants explicitly that they might not receive the same incentives as prior applicants.

   Continue the current incentive structure for all landmarks designated on or before the effective date identified above, but transition into the new incentive structure upon a transfer of ownership. Allow owners of currently-designated residential landmarks to opt into the new incentive program.

   Maintain the existing incentive structure for commercial properties that are designated landmarks.

While we believe the Landmark Program Administration changes must be made, it must be underscored that the Incentives for Preservation are wholly dependent on the commitment from all taxing jurisdictions that each will continue participation in the landmark incentive program.

The Heritage Society of Austin strongly believes in the

Continued on page 9
Inherit Austin

By Bergan Casey, Chair

Inherit Austin is looking back . . . and moving forward

On November 7th, Inherit Austin hosted its first annual “Somewhere in Time” fundraising dinner at Boggy Creek Farm in East Austin. For this event, we chose to highlight the history of the organic farming movement by serving an 1800s-inspired menu on the back lawn of one of Austin’s oldest farm homesteads. Built in 1839, the original 50 acres was two-and-a-half miles outside the “village of Austin.”

Despite development on all four sides of the 5-acre property, Boggy Creek continues to be a thriving urban farm producing organic produce and eggs popular with some of the city’s favorite chefs and caterers. Owners and HSA members, Carol Ann Sayle and Larry Butler, told guests the history of the Greek Revival home, which they have lovingly renovated, and trends in family farming in Central Texas.

Inherit Austin would like to thank the following event hosts and auction donors whose generosity made this event successful.

Sabrina & Jay Brown
Mollie & Steve Butler
Bergan & Stan Casey
Anne Crawford & Edward Tasch
August “Happy” Harris
Marjorie & David Harris (Austin World of Rentals)
Lindsay & Kevin Hunter
Carol Ann Sayle & Larry Butler (Boggy Creek Farm)
Rémi & Shannon Ratliff
Austin Steam Train Association
Clay Pit
Farmhouse Delivery
Gina’s Kitchen (Gina Burchenal)
Green Pastures Restaurant
Santo Spirits, Inc. (Ambhar Tequila)
The HighBall

Stay tuned for news about the second annual “Somewhere in Time” dinner featuring another historic location and period of time.

Still to come...
2011 Inherit Austin events include movie screening at the Alamo Ritz Cinema, Easter Egg Hunt at Laguna Gloria on April 23, private home tours, concerts and downtown Dillo & Drinks tour.

Please call the HSA office or check out the website to join Inherit Austin. Memberships: $65/individual, $80/couple-dual. Benefits include access to free and discount events held by Inherit Austin and the Heritage Society of Austin throughout the year.

The purpose of Inherit Austin is to cultivate a new generation of HSA members by hosting social, cultural and educational events that appeal to singles, married couples and families roughly ages 20-45.
Dear Austin Preservationists,

Looking to the Future

The president of every organization is indebted to the one who served before. I am extremely grateful for the thoughtful work last year that produced a strategic plan for the future of the Heritage Society of Austin. Thank you, Mandy Dealey.

As we embark on this New Year at the Heritage Society, a top priority is the implementation of the plan’s five action steps to better accomplish our goals for 2011 and beyond.

The first step is to increase public understanding of the value of preservation. As underscored by our keynote speaker, Kennedy Lawson Smith at our annual Awards luncheon, it is easy to determine what is “cool” or “uncool” in the built environment. Preserved historic structures get the “cool” nod when compared to big-box, sterile construction.

In the coming months, local officials in various governmental entities will be crafting important plans for Austin’s future. In preparation, the Heritage Society will assemble and deploy a dedicated group to create and implement a communication plan that identifies audiences and creates messages to promote the value of preservation efforts. That initiative will enable our existing preservation, communication and advocacy committees, as well as our membership, to be more proactive and effective in communicating just how important historic preservation in Austin is to our community.

Internally, we will take on the second action step: examining our Board membership for strategic assets. By creating an ongoing Board Assessment and Development Committee, we can best determine current Board strengths and needs for future Boards. The Heritage Society is fortunate to have extremely talented and devoted leadership and in this competitive non-profit environment it is critical that we continue to involve top-notch individuals in our organization.

The third action step is to increase funding through more dependable sources of income. Developing a comprehensive Funding Plan will provide a roadmap for achieving financial goals. Non-profits have been hard hit during this economic downturn and it is the Board’s desire to establish more strategic and reliable funding sources.

Action step number four emphasizes the continued evaluation of staff organization to aid our dedicated and hard-working Executive Director, Jacqui Schraad. A task force will be appointed to assess scope of work, division of responsibilities and additional staffing needs. This exercise is especially appropriate as the Heritage Society moves into a new space next month in the eastside offices of the Texas Society of Architects.

The move itself dovetails with the fifth step to establish productive alliances with strategic partners. Strengthening relationships with other organizations is a priority with many potential benefits. HSA will be actively working to enhance existing partnerships as it seeks out new alliances to promote the value of historic preservation.

Each day I continue to be amazed at the depth and scope of the Heritage Society and hope you will choose to become even more involved in the year ahead, contributing your time and resources to ensure that the cultural and historic fabric of Austin is visible and prominent for future generations.

Happy New Year!

Courtney Read Hoffman
HSA President
The 2012-2013 budgets recently introduced by the House and Senate slash funding for the Texas Historical Commission (THC) by nearly 80% and for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) by approximately 30%. As legislators face difficult budget decisions, it would be shortsighted to make such disproportionate cuts in these important agencies’ budgets. With every agency claiming to be more worthy, why should we defend these?

Because, in addition to protecting our unique and treasured Texas heritage, historic preservation creates jobs, promotes investment in small towns and urban centers, and maintains sites that are essential to Texas’ thriving heritage tourism industry. In other words, funding historic preservation activities is a wise investment in growing our state’s economy.

Consider THC’s highly successful Historic Courthouse Restoration Program. Initiated by Gov. George W. Bush in 1999, it provides grants to counties to restore their historic courthouses, and provides new life to commercial districts and creates skilled, local jobs in the construction industry. Stan Graves, director of the program says, “The Courthouse Restoration Program plants the seed for recovery in communities across Texas.” Studies show that $1 million spent on rehabilitation of historic properties yields more local construction jobs, as well as more in local income and retail sales, than new construction. In 12 years, the courthouse program has created 5,800 Texas jobs and nearly $40 million in state and local tax revenues. The currently proposed budgets eliminate this invaluable investment in our local economies.

The THC’s Heritage Trails Program, through its ten regional offices, promotes visitation to heritage sites across Texas, providing the framework for a $5 billion segment of the leisure travel market important to urban centers, and critical to smaller towns. Heritage travelers stay longer and spend more while visiting than other tourists. This results in increased revenue for local and State government through higher sales and lodging taxes. With the support of the THC’s Marketing and Communications Division, brochures and websites advertising the Trail Regions have been produced, and a new marketing effort was recently launched to bring even more awareness. All of these efforts would be eliminated in the proposed budgets.

The THC, as the state agency for historic preservation, is uniquely qualified to carry out activities that ensure the protection of Texas’ historic resources. In addition to the programs already mentioned, others supporting local government activities would be reduced under the proposed budgets. These include the Main Street program and those related to the County Historical Commissions. These programs showcase the best of state government, providing services to communities large and small resulting in significant economic benefits at the local level.

Eliminating maintenance funds for historic properties operated by the THC or TPWD is also proposed. We must invest today to ensure historic resources are not lost due to deferred maintenance or catastrophic failure. Once a historic building is lost it cannot be brought back. In addition, reuse of historic resources is a sustainable activity. The “greenest” building is the one already built, but maintenance is key to sustainability.

Do Texans Care About Their Heritage?

By Courtney Read Hoffman, HSA President & Jim Ray, Preservation Texas President

Continued on page 7
Volunteer Opportunity

The Bold & Beautiful
Saturday, April 9, 2011
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Join us as a volunteer for this beloved annual event and receive one free ticket to the tour. For more info on the tour, visit www.heritagesocietyaustin.org.

Volunteer Descriptions:
Docents work 2-4 hour shifts with the house chair the day of the tour. They are given a history script as written by the HSA research committee. They tell the tour-goers about the history, lead them from room to room and are available for answering questions. Docents are strongly encouraged to attend a special informational meeting to be scheduled in late March at the home they will be working at. They will be given a tour of the home, receive the house history, and be assigned a working location within the house for the day of the tour.

Ticket sellers sell tickets to tour-goers at the HSA tour headquarters tent. This has a time requirement the day of the tour for 2 hours. On the form below, please check one shift time.

The Bold & Beautiful ♦ Volunteer Sign Up Form

Name __________________________________________________________

Address  ________________________________________________________

City  ____________________________State __________ Zip_____________

Day Phone ______________________Evening Phone ___________________

Email ___________________________________________________________

Preferred Shift:
Please write in your 1st and 2nd preference

___ 10 a.m. ___ 2 p.m.
___ 12 p.m. ___ Any time

Preferred volunteer position
(please check one):

☑ Docent ☐ Ticket Seller

Thank you for volunteering!

We will confirm your shift and details on volunteering two weeks in advance of the tour. Contact the Volunteer Chair at hhtvolunteers@gmail.com with your volunteer preference or questions, or fax this sheet to 476-8687 or mail to: HSA, HHT Volunteer Chair, P.O. Box 2113, Austin, TX 78768

Do Texan Care, continued from page 6

Preservation Texas and the Heritage Society of Austin support funding for preservation programs as they represent an investment with a proven return today and into our future. Protecting our built heritage is not a partisan issue. As Texans we all take pride in the stories and places that represent the glory of Texas. We must ensure that these places survive, and make it clear to our legislators that we cannot afford to step back from preserving our heritage. We must ensure that the “Story of Texas” continues to be told, for our schoolchildren, for our heritage, and for our future as a state.

For more information visit www.preservationtexas.org or www.heritagesocietyaustin.org.
Jourdan-Bachman

Pioneer Farms

An update about all the goings-on at Austin’s premier living history park.

Jarmon House, Wagon Gift, Boy Scouts & New Day Camps

A SPRINKLE STOREKEEPER’S LANDMARK HOME RELOCATED TO FARMS

The historic Jarmon House was relocated to a safe new home at Pioneer Farms in early December. The move of the house to save it from demolition capped nearly two years of negotiations, planning and hard work. The move had been repeatedly delayed, including rattlesnakes and about 10,000 bees that moved into the attic three weeks before the move.

Now located just east of our Sprinkle Corner town square, the one-story house is to be restored and eventually opened for exhibits. The house was built around 1900 by Robert and Beulah Jarmon, and had stood as an area landmark ever since. Waste Management bought the property a few years ago, and cooperated with the move. Mr. Jarmon operated the general store in Sprinkle, an early-day town located southeast of Pioneer Farms where the Barr Mansion is located and the namesake of our village. Elizabeth Wilder, Jarmon’s granddaughter, and her daughter, Diane Hale, were on hand with other Jarmon descendants for the move. They cheered along with about 30 onlookers and volunteers who had worked on the move.

A MAJOR EXHIBIT OF WAGON COLLECTION AND A BARN

Descendants of Walter E. Long, a noted Austin civic leader and early preservationist, and his preservationist daughter Janet Long Fish have generously offered a collection of wagons, carriages and buggies from the 1800s for display at Pioneer Farms.

The collection owned by the Fish Family includes a group of more than a dozen horse-drawn conveyances that were collected over the years by Janet Long Fish. Many are in excellent, original condition. A conservation assessment is currently underway, with plans to display some of the items soon in a new exhibit.

The family has also donated an 1880s barn that was part of the Weiland Farm just north of Pioneer Farms. The barn is to be used in building out our Sprinkle Corner entrance village.

The exciting announcement was heralded as one of the most significant developments at Pioneer Farms in decades. All of the transportation items have significant history, and they will become part of a new Janet Long Fish Collection of early transportation history at Pioneer Farms.

NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH BOY SCOUTS FEATURES RANGES, MERIT BADGE CAMPS

A new partnership being developed between Pioneer Farms and the Boy Scouts will make available new
facilities and activities for boys in the Austin area. As part of the partnership, separate new archery and BB-gun ranges for Cub Scouts are to be built at Pioneer Farms. The plan is to have those ranges open sometime during 2011. We are now seeking sponsors for those two projects, which will cost $1,500 each. If you’d like to be a donor for these important project, please call 632-9561. In addition, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturers will be able to use Pioneer Farms for camps and special outings, including merit badge camps that Pioneer Farms plans to offer in the coming year. The use of Pioneer Farms as a Scout facility will have benefits for local youths. It will offer an additional location for Scout activities for parents who cannot afford to go to Cub World or the Lost Pines Scout Camp outside Bastrop, and it will open new dates for programs at those Scout facilities that often are booked full.

Exciting new summer camps for children at Pioneer Farms start booking this month and, based on initial excitement from last month’s announcement about them, they’re expected to fill up fast. In a partnership with Pioneer Farms, Kidventure will be holding Camp Pioneer – half-day camps that will provide an incredible opportunity for children to step back in time to Texas during the 1800s. The camps will be one-of-a-kind in the Austin area.

Two camps will be offered: Explorers, for boys and girls, ages 6-8 (entering first grade in fall 2011, and Adventurers, for children ages 9-13.

Each camp session is carefully designed to transport children back to the 1800’s, by providing a variety of Nineteenth Century-style activities as well as trained specialists who will demonstrate and teach trades essential to the period. Activities may include dressing in period costumes, demonstrations of arts and crafts from 1800s Texas, fishing, nature walks and wildlife identification, cooking, caring and feeding of farm animals, gardening, sports and games, blacksmithing, leatherwork, special events and more.

Enrollment is set to begin at Kidventure.com. Space is limited so parents are encouraged to apply as quickly as they can.
Many Thanks to our New and Renewing Members

CONTRIBUTOR
Austin Saengerrunde
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Cynthia & Lowell Smith
Laura Van Slyke

FRIEND
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Thomas Barbour & Paula Hern
Al Godfrey & Laurie Limbacher
Carole & George Nallie, Ill

ADVOCATE
Mary & Robert Cocke

Sue Brandt McBee
9-23-23 to 1-3-2011

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death
of Sue McBee, one of the founders of the Heritage
Society of Austin. Sue was a much-admired force of nature,
leading the charge on the preservation of places and
memories in her beloved home of Austin. With her wit,
charm and way with words, Sue led all of us lucky enough
to know her down a path of loving history, giving deeply
to our community and the arts, and always fighting for the
underdog. Sue McBee was a star in Austin’s crown and will
forever be remembered.

The Heritage Society was honored that Sue McBee’s family
included HSA in the list of non-profits suggested to receive
donations in lieu of flowers. If you would like to make a
donation to HSA in her honor, please mail contributions
with that intent indicated to P.O. Box 2113, Austin, TX
78768, or call Jacqui Schraad at 512-474-5198, ext. 15.

Symposium on the Restoration of Cast and Wrought Iron

Saturday, March 19, and
Sunday, March 20, 2011
Wood Auditorium, Avery Hall,
Columbia University • New York, New York

This one and one-half day symposium will give participants
an understanding of the properties of historic cast
and wrought iron and appropriate treatments for
these materials in architectural applications. Leading
conservators, preservationists, and fabricators will
present sessions on topics including the basics of repair
of historic cast and wrought iron; modes of failure; repair
versus replacement decisions; survey and documentation
methods; casting and coating; cleaning and abatement;
and labor and logistics issues encountered in the field.
Participants will be eligible for Learning Units meeting
the requirements of the AIA Continuing Education
System. Conference schedule, registration, and other info
is available at www.hpef.us.
The Austin Classical Guitar Society and the Heritage Society of Austin are forging a new partnership to present intimate classical guitar concerts in historic homes in Austin. These special evenings are made irresistibly delicious thanks to Antonelli’s Cheese Shop and Twin Liquors, who are sponsoring wine and cheese receptions at each concert.

The Austin Guitar Salon spring series 2011 includes three concerts in unique, historic settings and feature phenomenal Texas talent. For tickets or more information visit AustinClassicalGuitar.org or call 512-300-ACGS.

The Austin Guitar Salon, spring series 2011 is sponsored by The Kinney Company.

**Tony Morris & Renata Green at The Old School**
Saturday, February 26th at 7 p.m.
This gracious 1876 property on East 11th Street will host an evening of flute and guitar music performed by well-known Austin musicians Renata Green (flute) and Tony Morris (guitar). These international performers have been guests, multiple times, at the White House. Tony Morris is also host of the popular, internationally syndicated radio show Classical Guitar Alive, heard locally on KMFA.

**Janet Grohovac at the McClendon-Kozmetsky House**
Saturday, March 26th at 7 p.m.
This Mid-Century Modern Landmark home with a rich history and beautifully-appointed interiors will host award-winning Canadian classical guitarist Janet Grohovac.

**Texas Guitar Quartet at the Phillips House**
Saturday, May 14th at 7 p.m.
A visit to the superb Mid-Century Modern Phillips House transports guests to an Austin era that was totally modern, supremely cool, and ring-a-ling glamorous. The Texas Guitar Quartet is a stunning ensemble of talented artists that is garnering universal rave reviews.