



**PRESERVATION  
— AUSTIN —**

FORMERLY HERITAGE SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

# PRESERVATION — AUSTIN —

SAVING THE GOOD STUFF

Summer 2013 ★ Volume 17 No. 3



## Generous Funding Supports Our Initiatives

### President's Message

★ Tere O'Connell, AIA



**J**ust when finances looked to be challenging, Preservation Austin was awarded three generous grants from private foundations that will help us carry forward with our mission to promote Austin's diverse cultural heritage through the preservation of historic places. We are so thankful to Board Members Mandy Dealey and Melanie Martinez and staff members Angela Reed and Jacqui Schraad, and Mike Ward and the volunteers at Pioneer Farms for their work to write and shepherd these successful grant applications through the process.

In late May, we learned that we received a \$20,000 grant from the Butler Family Foundation, with thanks to board member Melanie Martinez. The majority of the grant will fund our efforts to promote the formation of local historic districts (LHDs) and the landmarks program, and \$5,000 will go to the nascent Travis Heights / Fairview Park Local Historic District application effort to give them the boost they need to get them closer to completing the project.

The Fath Family Foundation was very generous to Preservation Austin, with two grants championed by former president and current board member Mandy Dealey. A grant of \$25,000 was awarded to Preservation Austin to support our LHD efforts, our ongoing efforts



Tere O'Connell presents a \$5,000 grant check to Michele Webre in support of the Travis Heights/Fairview Park Local Historic District nomination.

to lead teams of volunteers to populate the Historic Wiki Survey with data, and to develop three more downloadable historic tours, including Historic Music Venues, The Tejano Trail, and the African American Cultural Heritage District. Please contact Angela Reed at [angela@preservationaustin.org](mailto:angela@preservationaustin.org) if you would like to volunteer with the Historic Wiki effort.

The second grant received from the Fath Foundation is a very generous \$50,000 that will provide the funds needed to complete the restoration of Wessels Dance Hall at Pioneer Farms. This is a tremendously exciting

*Continued on page 3*

SAVE THE DATE

# Windows Restoration Workshop

John Hindman and his fellow craftsmen from Red River Restorations will teach the essentials of repairing wooden sash windows in this hands-on workshop.



Photo Courtesy: Red River Restorations

Restored Kyle Train Depot window.

Held at the beautifully restored Commodore Perry Estate, participants will learn to glaze, paint, weather strip and unstick painted-shut windows. You will also learn how to safely remove lead paint.

**Saturday, July 27, 2013**

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm

The Chapel at Commodore Perry Estate  
4100 Red River Street, Austin, Texas 78751  
\$75 per person

Comfortable work clothes are suggested. Refreshments will be provided. ★

Get the earliest notice of event ticket sales and updates.

Like us at <https://www.facebook.com/PreservationAustin>



PRESERVATION  
— AUSTIN —

## STAFF

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# PRESERVATION — AUSTIN —

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# Call for Nominations



## Preservation Merit Awards

**P**reservation Austin annually presents awards to honor individuals and organizations for their visionary approach to preservation and commitment to maintaining Austin's unique architectural, cultural, and environmental heritage. By creating more recognition for outstanding preservation projects and people engaged in preservation, we hope to inspire others to carry on the important work of safeguarding Austin's heritage. Projects must be located within the City of Austin and completed on or after January 1, 2011 and prior to the date applications are due.

Nomination Guidelines and Form found at [www.preservationaustin.org/programs/preservation-awards/](http://www.preservationaustin.org/programs/preservation-awards/)

**Nominations must be received on Monday, July 29th, 2013 by 3:00 p.m.** Packages may be mailed to Preservation Austin, ATTN: PA Awards, P.O. Box 2113, Austin, TX 78768; hand delivered to our office at 500 Chicon Street in Austin; or sent by e-mail to [info@preservationaustin.org](mailto:info@preservationaustin.org). Contact Angela Reed at [angela@preservationaustin.org](mailto:angela@preservationaustin.org) or 474-5198 with questions. ★

### *Generous Funding continued from page 1*

effort that will finally come to fruition within the next three months. This work will include exterior painting and construction of the restrooms, catering kitchen and related utilities. The dance hall was originally located near the community of West Point, north of La Grange, and sat vacant for at least 40 years. The one-story wood frame building dates to the early 20th century, and was built by two brothers in a design common for dance halls in the late 1800s. It has a clear span floor and fold-down outside windows. It fits in perfectly at the south side of the Pioneer Farms town square. Barring any unforeseen circumstances (heaven forbid), it will be available to rent in the fall. I can almost hear Asleep at the

Wheel or Dale Watson playing there now.

The finishing touch to the Pioneer Farms event center will be the addition of a congregational church that can be used for historic programming, weddings and special events. Historically, churches were the first public buildings constructed in many early Texas settlements, signifying the importance of faith in the community. We have our eye on a special property to be sited to the east side of Sprinkle Corner square. We are in need of \$200,000 to complete this aspect of work. Once completed, the event center will be a perfect setting for

weddings and special events, and will provide income to help Pioneer Farms continue to grow and prosper. You can contact [farminfo@pioneerfarms.org](mailto:farminfo@pioneerfarms.org) if you know of funding sources or would like to help. All donations are tax deductible.

These are exciting times. I'm going to go shine my boots for that dance floor.

Best Regards,  
Tere O'Connell  
PRESIDENT ★



# Inside the Austin Woman's Club

By Gayle Hight

**T**he Austin Woman's Club. It's that big, white castle on the hill, catty-corner from a restaurant called Ranch 616. Have you ever wondered what's inside?

Located at 710 San Antonio Street, the Austin Woman's Club is in the Bremond Block of the National Register Historic District. In preservation and historical circles, it's known as the North-Evans Chateau. Most recently, its d.b.a. is Chateau Bellevue, a popular event venue, especially for weddings. ([www.chateaubellevueaustin.org](http://www.chateaubellevueaustin.org))

My first tour of the Austin Woman's Club was in 1987, when I joined the Junior Austin Woman's Club. (You "graduate" to the senior club at age 55.) The mansion has an impressive Romanesque Revival limestone masonry exterior, but it's the interior that really wowed me.

You'll find room after room of hand carved curly-pine woodwork, ornate marble and tile fireplaces, pressed tin ceilings and stained glass windows – including a Star of Texas stained glass skylight! (Who knew they had skylights in the late 1800s?) The mansion is furnished with beautiful antiques, including a Tiffany-style lamp and gorgeous antique oriental rugs on intricate parquet flooring.



The North-Evans Chateau

In the early days, there was a lush sunken garden – where the parking lot now stands. And underneath it all, an offshoot of Shoal Creek known as “Little Shoal Creek” ran through the property. In 1917, the City diverted the creek with an underground concrete tunnel.

## Deep Austin Roots

The grammatically correct name is Austin Woman's Club ([www.austinwc.org](http://www.austinwc.org)), but that's not what the founders of the Club named it in 1928. In 1929, the Club bought the mansion for \$36,000 from Frances Hurlbut, former wife of Maj. Ira Evans. (Read more about Maj. Evans below.)

You will probably recognize names of some of the Austin Woman's Club founders: Mrs. Miriam Ferguson (first woman governor of Texas), Mrs. Percy Pennybacker (think banjo bridge), Mrs. Zachary T. Scott (think theater), and Miss Lila Casis (think elementary school). An album with original portraits of the 164 founding members is displayed in an upstairs parlor and is a wonderful tribute to them.

Over the past 85 years, the Austin

Woman's Club has been active in the Austin community. In its early years the Club was an advocate for preservation, protesting cutting down trees on the courthouse lawn and paying to mark the city streets in the neighborhood. They also urged the City Council to leave the “moon glow towers.” During WWII, volunteers came to the Club to roll bandages for injured troops. In the 1940s and 1950s, the third floor became boarding rooms for female students from The University of Texas.

## Only Three Other Former Owners

The North-Evans Chateau is one of Austin's few surviving large-scale Victorian residences. Originally from France, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey North built the original section of the mansion in 1874. The original architect is unknown. Inspired by their travel in Europe, the Norths called their French-chateau style home Bellevue Place.

In 1884, Augusta and William Gaines (editor and owner of the Austin Democrat, what was to become the Austin American-Statesman) bought it from the North estate. The Gaines

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*Austin Woman's Club continued from page 4*

returned the property to Mrs. North several years later after their marriage ended in separation.

In 1892, Maj. Ira Evans and his wife purchased Bellevue Place. Evans soon hired noted architect Alfred Giles for major renovations to the mansion. Originally from England, Giles lived in San Antonio and primarily worked in South Texas and Mexico. He is perhaps best known for his numerous courthouses in South Texas and was influenced by the Romanesque Revival style. Giles added large stone porches and additional floors and crenellations to the mansion, dramatically altering its appearance.

Originally from Vermont, Maj. Evans moved to South Texas in 1867 and started a cattle ranch near Corpus Christi, which later failed. In 1869, he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives and in 1870, at age 25, he was elected Speaker of the House, the youngest person to hold that position. Evans was removed from office when Democrats returned to power at the end of Texas Reconstruction in 1871.

Maj. Evans moved to Austin in 1880 and became one of the most prominent philanthropists and business leaders, including president of the New York and Texas Land Company and director of the Consolidated International and Great Northern Railway Company. Evans Hall, the main administration building on the campus of Huston-Tillotson College (a historically black college), was named in honor of Maj. Evans. He served on the Board of Trustees and gave financial support

to the college in its early years. During the Civil War, Maj. Evans led a battalion of U.S. Colored Troops and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Maj. Evans was also president of the Austin Electric Railway Company and a co-founder of the Austin National Bank, today part of Bank of America. An original Austin National Bank vault with an elaborately decorated door still stands at the end of the formal dining room in the mansion. It still works!

In addition to being the Evans' residence, Bellevue Place was a popular meeting place for civic and social organizations. Numerous organizations were founded there, including the Texas State Historical Commission.

### **The Austin Woman's Club Today**

Today the Austin Woman's Club is still a popular meeting place for more than over 45 civic and social organizations. The Thankful Hubbard Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has met at the Club since 1929, and recently underwrote the restoration of beautiful beveled and stained glass throughout the mansion.

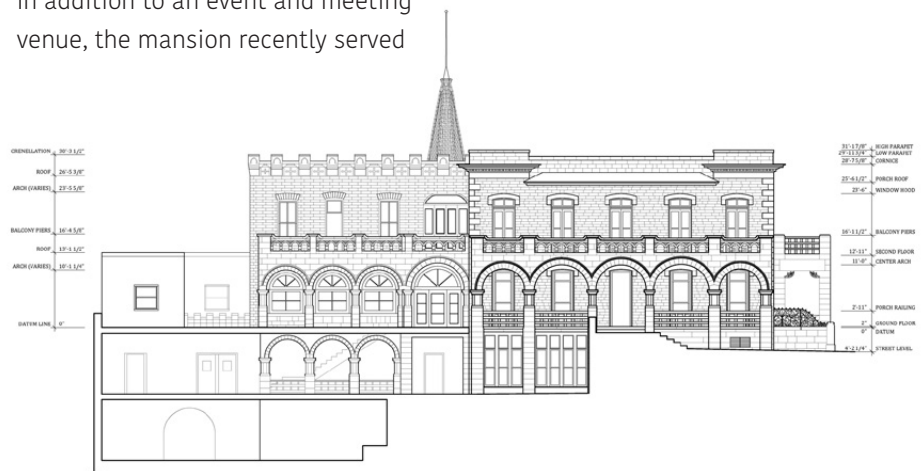
In addition to an event and meeting venue, the mansion recently served

as a laboratory for University of Texas at Austin architectural students who spent almost a year and thousands of hours measuring every inch and angle of the building. Their project drawings won first place in the Peterson Prize, a national competition among other universities. The drawings are now permanently held in the Library of Congress.

The Austin Woman's Club stays in touch with descendants of Maj. Evans who live in San Antonio. The family recently loaned the Club several pieces of furniture, including a desk used by President McKinley in his re-election campaign.

The Austin Woman's Club is dedicated to preserving the mansion for future generations and faces increasing and expensive maintenance issues, such as deteriorating masonry, electrical systems and roof leaks.

If you would like to help with this preservation effort, and/or if you would like to arrange a group tour, please call the Austin Woman's Club at 512-472-1336. You are in for a special treat! For more information, please visit our website at [www.austinwc.org](http://www.austinwc.org). ★



Exterior measured drawing by University of Texas at Austin architectural students

# PA's Preservation Committee is Hard at Work for Preservation Advocacy

By Caroline Wright, Preservation Committee Co-chair

**T**he Preservation Committee is one of PA's multiple working committees. The committee meets twice-monthly to discuss preservation projects brought to our attention by the public, architects, developers or planners needing assistance, or by PA members and staff. The committee provides advocacy, makes recommendations for PA policy positions regarding preservation issues and projects, and forms partnerships with other neighborhood or preservation groups working on preservation issues. Members of the committee are restoration architects, historians, realtors, developers, planners, experienced neighborhood advocates, and other professionals with expertise in various aspects of historic preservation. We work to promote and ensure the preservation of local historic resources. Our process is to discuss and sometimes debate items that come to our attention, then vote on a position statement for that issue that is then submitted to PA's Board or Executive Committee for final approval before a position letter is sent to the appropriate party.

The following are just a few of the projects the Preservation Committee has worked on this year.

- The architect planning upcoming renovations for the Scarbrough and Littlefield buildings presented his proposed designs to the committee. The committee expressed concerns for the plans for the lobby of the Scarbrough building, which led to

changes in the project's design to preserve historic materials in that space.

- The Committee wrote multiple letters, approved by the Executive Committee, supporting various legislative actions. We supported the Texas Historical Commission in their funding requests with letters to the House Appropriations, Senate Finance and to the Culture Recreation and Tourism committees. We also supported the City of Austin in maintaining their lease of historic Brush, Republic, and Wooldridge Squares.
- The City of Austin's Parks Department and the consultants creating the Republic Square Master Plan presented their proposal at each stage of development, illustrating inclusion of the park's historic context as advised by the Committee. The Committee will continue to stay involved as the project progresses and looks forward to seeing exciting new features for public use in this historic space.
- PA continues to be involved in the Imagine Austin Plan and its implementation. Representatives from the committee attend public meetings and meet with priority plan teams to request that preservation be included in the Plan.
- The City Parks Department presented their concept for a design competition for the Seaholm Intake Buildings. The Committee expressed support for the reuse of these unique resources and ensured that one judge in the competition be a Commissioner from the Historic Landmark Commission so that preservation would be prioritized as a component of the design.
- Architects and representatives from Hotel Zaza met with the Committee to discuss their plans for the reuse of the National Biscuit Co. Warehouse on 4th and Guadalupe Street, otherwise known as the Gingerman Building, as they discussed their plans to integrate the façade of the existing structure into that of the new building. ★



National Biscuit Co. Warehouse at 4th & Guadalupe



**P**reservation Austin presents a monthly on-line Heritage Quiz. The first Friday of every month, we post on our Facebook page an image of an historic site in Austin. The first responder to identify the site wins a gift certificate to Cenote coffeehouse. Don't miss this opportunity for public glory and a gratis caffeine fix. Like us now at <https://www.facebook.com/PreservationAustin>



Congratulations to our recent winners to date, who correctly identified the following properties:



**Butler Window**  
Zilker Botanical Gardens  
Winner: Emily Miller

This arch is from the home of Michael Butler, built in 1887 at the northwest corner of 11th and Guadalupe. Butler, an Irish immigrant and pioneer Austin brick maker, started manufacturing bricks in 1873. Thomas Harding of Little Rock was the architect. The walls were three bricks thick and one of the rooms were rectangular or square. Butler supplied bricks for the Capitol and in return received a portion of the shipment of granite used in the building. The granite was used for the window sills and frames and the decorative arches. The house was sold in 1964 after the death of Mr. Butler. After being used for a while as an antique store, the house was demolished in November 1971 and this arch donated to the city to be preserved in Zilker Gardens. Substantial acreage along the Colorado River, named Butler Park, was deeded to the city, at Mr. Butler's request, by his heirs for park, recreational and civic purposes. This valuable asset to Austin reflects the love and gratitude of a pioneer immigrant and his family for their community.



**Texas Capitol Fence**  
Winner: Megan Blinov

William Munro Johnson, hired in 1888 to plan the Capitol's landscaping, designed ornate iron fencing with a granite foundation to demarcate the perimeter of the grounds. The wrought and cast iron fencing, manufactured by Mast, Foos & Company of Ohio, uniquely features Texas' Lone Star motif. Incorporating iron gates at the five carriage and six pedestrian entrances, the fence also functioned to keep wandering livestock off Capitol Square. In 1907, the vehicular entrances were widened, and the gates removed and dispersed to several Austin locations. In 1996, the fence was completely reconditioned, with new pedestrian entrances added to improve access. Also it was painted in the original black and gold colors, although metallic paint was used instead of gold leaf. Several of the original gates were restored and returned to the grounds; the remainder were reproduced from the originals.



**Robert S. Stanley House**  
200 West Mary Street  
Winner: Caroline Wright

Stanley was a Travis County native (1863-1941), an African American stonemason and laborer who, with help from his brothers, built this stone house in 1895 or 1892 for his wife Francis and their children. He later built a stone building on Mary Street in 1927 (now the Herb Bar) for his second wife Jennie, as a general store. The Stanley family was one of the first African American families to operate their own business in south Austin. The front-gabled vernacular house exhibits Stanley's craftsmanship in its rusticated load-bearing and veneer limestone construction, two-foot thick stone half-basement (one of the few basements in south Austin), and long leaf pine framing and floors. The house remained in the family for more than 100 years. Stanley is buried at Austin's Evergreen Cemetery. The house is a recorded Texas Historic Landmark. ★



# Sharing History with the Future: PA Member Shares Expertise with Elementary Students

by Maureen Metteauer

**A** century ago, Judges Hill neighborhood served as the home to some of Austin's most prominent families. Now thanks to the research of Phoebe Allen, local Austin historian and Preservation Austin member, students at Pease elementary school had the chance to learn about the homes and ghost houses of Judges Hill through an in-class presentation and walking tour. They also enjoyed a picnic lunch in the backyard of the Austin landmark Granger House, home of Jeff Harper and Mark Seeger.

As part of a pilot project, Allen presented her research on the lost homes of Judges Hill neighborhood and their owners; families that helped settle Texas, and later, Austin. The presentation and walking tour covered the history of several homes and families including: the Elijah Sterling Clack Robertson home (1703 San Gabriel, demolished 1950s), the George Glasscock home (West Avenue, demolished 1920s), the Nathaniel Townsend home (18th & West Avenue, demolished 1968), the Thomas Coke Thomson home (1508 Rio Grande, demolished 1960s), the Edward Mandell home (16th and West Avenue, demolished 1967), the Daniel Caswell, Jr. home (15th and West Avenue, demolished 1960s), and the Byrne-Reed home (1410 Rio Grande, recently restored).

The presentation exposed students to concepts such as surveying and



Pease Elementary students visit the Byrne-Reed House as part of their Judge's Hill tour.

afforded historical context for early Texas Settlements including Robertson's colony (encompassing present-day Williamson County and counties to the north) as well as Austin's colony (now Austin and Travis County).

The children later wrote thank you notes to Ms. Allen. Here are some of their comments about the tour (spelling not corrected):

— The way you described things

*totally got my mind. It was the best presentation ever.*

— *You're awesome at explaining historical nonfiction. Everything you said filled my head with nolige and power. Every kid you will talk to will be stunned on the past because they will be amazed at the people and the houses. Also, I remember the three columns: Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian.*

— *My favorite thing about the tour*

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SAVE THE DATE

## ★ Goodwin Co. Pine Floors Seminar

September 11, 2013  
12:00-1:15 p.m.

Austin Center for Architecture  
801 W. 12th Street  
2 learning credits for HSW, AIA and  
IDCEC offered.

Free for PA Members/\$20 non-members

Representatives from Goodwin Pine, the company that restored hardwood floors for the Governor's Mansion, will give a presentation about how to use hardwood floors, what to look for in hardwood and softwood quality, "hardwood science," and a short history of hardwood floors and logging in America. Goodwin Pine will talk about the benefits of using reclaimed wood and their method of salvaging original old-growth hardwood logs from river bottoms, lost during logging transport in the nineteenth century. ★



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— AUSTIN —



## Get Involved!

## PA is currently recruiting members for our Education and Preservation Committees

**Education Committee:** Develops and presents programs and events to educate the PA membership and general public on preservation issues, including developing the downloadable tours, lectures, workshops, trainings, and Holiday Candlelight Tour. Contact Angela Reed at [angela@preservationaustin.org](mailto:angela@preservationaustin.org) or 615-7724 to sign up.

**Preservation Committee:** Provides advocacy, makes recommendations for PA policy positions regarding preservation issues and projects, and forms partnerships with other neighborhood or preservation groups working on preservation issues. Members of the committee are restoration architects, historians, realtors, developers, planners, experienced neighborhood advocates, and other professionals with expertise in various aspects of historic preservation. Qualified PA members are invited to submit a resume or summary of experience for consideration to [angela@preservationaustin.org](mailto:angela@preservationaustin.org). ★

*Sharing History continued from page 8*

*was going to look inside that Reed house. My other favorite thing was eating lunch in that person's back yard. My third favorite thing was learning what those columns were called – the Doric, Ionic and Corinthian.*

*– I will remember this for the rest of my life!*

*– I remember how we're going to be able to tell which one is which.*

*Here's how:*

*Dorick: flat on top*

*Ionic: scrolls on top*

*Corinthian: leaves on top*

*– I was amazed on how you were so detailed and exciting. The things that you taught us, I will remember and I will give my parents a tour.*

*– You did exactly fine by not getting mad at us when some kids were messing around. You were polite and*

*happy. I know that it's hard to do that but you were fine.*

This dynamic program was made possible by the volunteer efforts of Phoebe Allen, Pease Principal Donna Martinez and 4th Grade teachers Maia Chambers and Carrie Cherek. They hope to determine topic areas that can be adapted into a video to supplement for Texas History and other k-12 social studies classes. ★



## John Hindman: Red River Restorations and Fine Woodworking

**W**oodworker John Hindman sowed the seeds for his business, Red River Restorations and Fine Woodworking 10 years ago. He walked around his Hyde Park neighborhood stuffing handmade fliers into residents' mailboxes advertising that he could fix or make wooden screens for their historic homes. A neighbor hired him that day, and his projects grew from there.

Hindman founded Red River Restorations and Fine Woodworking ([www.redriverrestorations.com](http://www.redriverrestorations.com)) in 2003. The company's headquarters, a 1935 bungalow and garage apartment on Red River Street that is a restoration work-in-progress, also serves as home for him and his son, Jack.

He and his crew of four have not only helped restore many historic windows in private homes and commercial buildings around Austin, they've tackled several high-profile projects including the Comal County Courthouse in New Braunfels, Kyle's historic train depot, Pemberton Castle, Laguna Gloria and the French Legation Museum.

Hindman said he loves teaching workshops about the restoration of wooden windows. Some of you may have attended his last workshop for Preservation Austin this past February. His next one, also hosted by Preservation

Austin, will be held on July 27th. Look for it on Preservation Austin's event page of their website, [www.preservationaustin.org/events](http://www.preservationaustin.org/events).

### **When did you first get involved in woodworking, and how were you drawn to this field?**

Out of college I tried different careers. I worked with troubled kids for five years in child protective services and juvenile justice in Iowa, Maryland and Texas. Then I worked in technology for eight years. Neither career was the right fit. I enjoyed and learned a lot from those experiences – business, sales, management and people skills – life skills. But I was always working on things on the side – making rocking chairs, restoring houses, framing houses, pouring foundations, figuring out how to make things or figuring out how they used to be made by craftsmen. I was really passionate about my side projects and would happily spend all my spare time on them. My day job got to be unbearable. I knew what I wanted to do, so I quit my job and never looked back. I had restored two 1930s buildings – a bungalow and garage apartment – and in the process had to figure out how to handle certain common problems: what to do about the original doors, old wood windows, wood screens, layers of lead paint and many other issues. I love quality and that's what they did in the

1930s and earlier. They made houses and their parts (even if neglected) to last 100 years or more. There was no way I was going to replace my windows, doors or siding. With the windows, I had to figure out either how to restore them or make them – or a combination. And I wanted them to work well and be reasonably efficient, which all led to woodworking.

A lot of my skills and knowledge have come from connecting with people, sharing ideas and things learned, watching YouTube or just figuring it out. And fortunately some very, very talented people have come to work with me who have tremendous woodworking and engineering skills.

### **What do you enjoy most about your work?**

I love history and I love working with people who are passionate. These old houses and buildings have a lot of history and stories, and almost every day I get to hear them – the energy and excitement is contagious. Plus, I love working with my hands and figuring things out and knowing that what I am working on will last and preserve something to pass on to the next generation.

One of my favorite recent projects was in Wimberley – the “Zach House” also called the “Wimberley-Hughes House.” It was built in 1870, I believe, by Zach Wimberley for his new wife. They were living with his parents and she demanded he build her a house (as he had promised) or she was leaving – and he did. He built her a small, one-room house. We were privileged to restore all of the original windows and make them functional. It's

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*Preservation Champions continued from page 10*

wonderful to know the story and history behind the project if possible. It gives richness to the work.

### **What are you and your crew working on now?**

We don't take every job that comes our way, just the ones that seem to be the right fit for what we do. This summer, among multiple residential jobs, we're doing some work at Camp Mabry on the old Works Progress Administration buildings' windows built in the 1930s-'40s.

### **Three years ago you bought your great-grandfather's farm house in Hornick, Iowa, and you've been spending some of your free time there restoring it. Why take on such a long-distance project?**

My great-grandfather moved there with his wife in 1880, bought 160 acres to farm, built a one-room house, had 11 kids and helped settle the area. He was also justice of the peace, served on the school board, was in the Masons, etc. In 1912-13 he built the farm house with his sons and his extended family.

I think his life and accomplishments are an amazing story worth passing on, and the house is part of that story. It's a tangible part of my personal history and American history, an heirloom. It deserves to be saved and restored to its original state. When you really consider what the pioneers did and accomplished, it is an awesome story. I want my children to know this story and to teach them what hard-working, determined people are capable of.

### **What can homeowners do to help preserve and extend the life of their wooden windows, and why shouldn't they just replace them with**



Red River Restorations crew: M. Woollven, John Hindman, Jacob Barnes, Cullen Inmon and Chase Bekarian

### **modern ones?**

What the windows usually need is maintenance and service (ropes or sash cord, paint, weather stripping, interior storm windows, hardware – love!) and they will work well, and just sparkle in the sunlight. The most important thing you can do is keep them painted and clean. If you have an old home with wood windows, but aren't ready to tackle restoration, at a minimum stabilize them so that when you are ready to work on them in two years or 35 years you will have something to work with. If there is rot in some of the sills or in part of the sash, that can be treated so it doesn't get any worse.

I've heard people say if you rip out the old windows and put in new ones, the house loses part of its soul. The windows are usually a major feature on any building and if you put in vinyl, or metal modern windows with double-pane glass and metal solar screens the building completely changes in its appearance inside and out. The original windows usually have beautiful old wavy glass and the sashes, frames and trim are made

with a very high quality wood that is rare today.

### **Why are historic preservation and restoration important to you?**

You can make wood windows and doors just like they did 100 years ago. It takes time, but there's a good feeling, a pride, in making something you know will last a long time and quality is at the heart of it. What I see in most of society and business today is profit, not pride, not quality. Those seem to be secondary in many cases. And I believe people miss those qualities that were so fundamental 100 years ago.

I think it's important not to romanticize the past. They had challenges and problems we can't even imagine today. We now have advanced medicine, technology and wealth. But there are important cultural and character traits that we are losing or have lost as our society evolves. Maybe in some way, old buildings with all their character and history allow us to connect with the past and those aspects we value while also providing some grounding in the world of massive change we now live in. ★

# Wooldridge Square Looking Forward to a Bright, Green Future



After a period of rest and some improvements, Wooldridge Square is looking wonderful.

Over the past year, Wooldridge Square, a downtown park that dates back to Edwin Waller's original 1839 plan for the city of Austin, has undergone a beautiful transformation. Please join us on Saturday, September 14, 2013 on Re-Opening Day for this historic square.

Preservation Austin recently worked with local and statewide preservation, parks and downtown advocates in successful support of legislation that would renew the land grants of the three remaining downtown squares, Wooldridge, Brush and Republic, for the next 99 years.

Closed for the past year for an overhaul including new irrigation, a new lawn, new tree plantings and more, the Park will once again become

a welcome respite from busy downtown under the shady, cool grove of pecans, and oaks. Fundraising is still continuing for the restoration of the 1910 Page Brothers designed bandstand and the Friends of Wooldridge Square are gathering donations through the Austin Parks Foundation. In just a few short months, the public will be welcomed back into the verdant green landscape and celebrate a bright future for a treasured green space and, hopefully, a restored bandstand.

The Friends of Wooldridge Square also recognize that a robust schedule of diverse programming is critical to the renewed life of the park and have an 'Action Team' planning a fun

and welcoming Re-Opening day-long celebration on Saturday, September 14th, followed by a fall season of programs to put Wooldridge back in the hearts and souls of the greater Austin Community. Check for updates at [www.facebook.com/wooldridgesquarepark](http://www.facebook.com/wooldridgesquarepark) or if you're interested in the fundraising or programming efforts of the Friends of Wooldridge Square, please contact Michael McGill at [mpm167@gmail.com](mailto:mpm167@gmail.com).



## Redecorate AND Donate!



# Red Chair Market™

*Where cool people find cool things™*

We've partnered with Red Chair Market to give you a new way to support Preservation Austin.

Red Chair Market is Austin's newest way to buy and sell new, used, vintage and antique furniture. Now, when you list an item for sale on the Market, you can designate a portion of the

proceeds to go to Preservation Austin. So look around your house to see if there is a treasure that may need to find a new, loving home. Parting with it

may be easier if you know you're also supporting your favorite cause.

Visit [www.redchairmarket.com/info/donations](http://www.redchairmarket.com/info/donations) for all the details. ★



**L**ooking over both our recent spring and upcoming fall events, I'm excited about the mix of venues available to us to enjoy historic Austin together. We have the opportunity to celebrate well-known landmarks that are dear to Austinite's hearts, congratulate local business owners who decide restoration is vital to their new venture, and still discover off the beaten path historic treasures.



Moore's Crossing Bridge

★ The annual Easter Egg Hunt at Laguna Gloria is a beautiful Austin tradition. This year on Saturday, March 23 so many joyful children created memories on the grounds of the historic Driscoll villa on Lake Austin. Many thanks to this year's event chairs Liz Lawrence and Ashley Washmon for continuing the tradition.

★ On May 17th, board members Killy Scheer and Michelle Slattery planned a very fun happy hour at Cenote, a new coffee shop on East Cesar Chavez. Cenote received a Merit Award for Adaptive Use in 2011. We had the pleasure of meeting co-owner Mary Jenkins and hearing her story about starting Cenote - the benefit that restoring a building has on the community, especially when past owners and tenants still live in the neighborhood, and the challenges of maintaining the historic fabric of the building while upgrading to current codes.

### And, here's what we're looking forward to:

★ It wouldn't be summer in Austin without a trip to the Paramount for the Summer Film Series. We'll be planning a movie and corresponding cocktail event in July. We'll keep you posted, and you can always get current updates by joining us on Facebook.

★ The Somewhere in Time annual fall fundraiser venue has been released! This year, we will dine al fresco on the original Congress Avenue Bridge. The iron bridge, built in 1884, was moved to storage in 1910 when a new bridge was needed at Congress Avenue and then rebuilt over Onion Creek at Moore's Crossing in southeast Austin in 1922.

Join us on September 29, 2013, from 6-9 p.m. Sponsorships with benefits available at the following levels: \$2,500, \$1,000, 500, \$250. \$100 tickets go on sale in August.

Please contact co-chairs Caroline Wright (carolinelaverne@gmail.com)

or Eileen Gill (eileenpgill@gmail.com) for more information.

We look forward to seeing you at these fun fall events!

**INHERIT AUSTIN** aims to cultivate a new generation of PA members by hosting social, cultural and educational events that appeal to young singles and married couples and families.

We are committed to the same vision and mission as Preservation Austin--preserving Austin's architectural and cultural past by not only protecting the city's important landmarks and historical fabric, but safeguarding its unique character as well.

Annual membership dues in Inherit Austin include all the benefits of PA membership, plus additional Inherit Austin member-only events. Recently, membership fees for IA members have been lowered to appeal to a wider audience.

**New Inherit Austin membership dues rates are Individual \$65 /Couple \$90**

JOURDAN-BACHMAN

# PIONEER FARMS

AN UPDATE ABOUT ALL THE GOINGS-ON AT AUSTIN'S PREMIER LIVING HISTORY PARK.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY FEST WILL SHOWCASE PIES, MELONS, MORE.

Our star-spangled Independence Day program this year will be an array of family fun — pie-eating and watermelon seed-spitting contests, carnival games, a choir, Dutch Oven cooking, a colorful display of independence flags, live music and much more. The red-white-and-blue festival will take place from 10-5 on Saturday, July 6. Regular admission will be charged. In addition to the other activities, there will be red-white-and-blue historical reenactments, horse rides and food — plus historical reenactments, artisans and other Old Texas activities at our five historic sites. The day will be Austin's version of a midsummer festival, a popular activity in the late 1800s.



Independence Day Celebration

life. The project is being completed in consultation with the Tonkawa Tribe in Oklahoma. The site lies in a topographical passage across Walnut Creek, an historic spot where the northern branch of Camino Real once passed, where the Chisholm Trail came through the area in the late 1860s and several roads crossed the creek between 1875 and 1915.

## 1841 TONKAWA ENCAMPMENT TO GET NEW DISPLAYS

Our 1841 Tonkawa Encampment, the oldest historic area at Pioneer Farms, will be expanded and upgraded with new structures and exhibits during the summer. The site along Walnut Creek dates to the 1600s and before, as a real Tonkawa Indian campground where tribal members camped seasonally as they moved through this area. Steve Ashley, lead interpreter at the site, said the upgrade will include work huts, a brush arbor and improved tipi exhibits and decorations so visitors can see a period re-creation of camp

## OUR EXCLUSIVE 'TICKANWA-TIC' TONKAWA INDIAN DISPLAY DEBUTS FOR VISITORS

Our exclusive new exhibit on the Tonkawa Indians is debuting to the public, after a year's planning and construction.

The must-see show in the Tate House gallery, in our Sprinkle entrance village, features a wide variety of First Texans artifacts — from handmade pots and stones once used to grind corn to spear and arrowheads, even a rare "biface" stone that was once used to prepare hides. The items are from the collection of amateur Austin

archaeologist Steve Ashley. The permanent exhibit is the latest new show at Pioneer Farms to showcase a little-known aspect of Central Texas history.

## OUR SUMMER HISTORY PROGRAMS OFFER A WIDE VARIETY OF FUN.

We have lots to offer your Summer Camp and Scout groups this summer. Our popular "Life on the Prairie" programs will be offered on Fridays for individuals and groups. Saturday and Sunday classes for Cub Scouts, by reservation, for seven different belt loops and pins: Heritages, Wildlife Conservation, Geography, Weather, Geology, Collecting, Map & Compass and Cultures. We also offer the Texas Badge. We have classes for Brownies and Girl Scouts, including "Girls of Grit," a special program for moms and daughters. And we offer five Boy Scout Merit Badge classes, and Eagle Scout projects. Campouts? We have sites for groups small and large. See [PioneerFarms.org](http://PioneerFarms.org) for details. ★



Tonkawa Indian

Photo credit: Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma



# Our New & Renewing Members



## Many Thanks

### Contributor ★

Phoebe Allen  
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 Claire McAdams  
 Kirsten & Charles Moody  
 Charles Peveto  
 Charles Phillips  
 Karen & Alex Pope  
 John Schlesinger  
 Mercedes & Harry Whittington

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Jeff & Toni Albrecht  
 Kim Collins  
 David Depwe  
 Lauren Shallcross  
 Nicole & Tyson Tuttle

### Advocate ★

Bailey Elliott Construction Inc.  
 Sara Koeninger  
 Julie & Patrick Oles, Jr.

### Benefactor ★

Green Mango Real Estate



**PRESERVATION  
— AUSTIN —**

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## PA CALENDAR OF EVENTS • 2013

**JUL 22** **Historic Landmark Commission Meeting**  
7:00 p.m., Austin City Hall. Please call 512.974.3530 for more information.

**JUL 27** **Windows Restoration Workshop**  
**4100 Red River**, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Commodore Perry Estate, \$75 per person.

**AUG 26** **Historic Landmark Commission Meeting**  
7:00 p.m., Austin City Hall. Please call 512.974.3530 for more information.

**SEP 11** **Goodwin Co. Pine Floor Seminar**  
Center for Architecture, 801 W. 12th St., 12:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 2 CEUs, PA members free / \$20 non-members.

**SEP 23** **Historic Landmark Commission Meeting**  
7:00 p.m., Austin City Hall. Please call 512.974.3530 for more information.

**SEP 29** **Inherit Austin's *Somewhere in Time Dinner at Moore's Crossing Bridge***  
6:00-9:00 p.m., Richard Moya Park., \$100 per person, *Save the Date.*

★ Tickets to Events available at:  
[www.preservationaustin.org](http://www.preservationaustin.org) or 512-474-5198.