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Hill Country Alliance Announces 2026 Photo Contest Winners and 2027 Hill Country Calendar

The Hill Country Alliance (HCA) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2026 Hill Country Photo Contest and the release of its **2027 Hill Country Calendar**, featuring photographs that celebrate the beauty and unique character of the Texas Hill Country.

Nearly 500 photographs were submitted to this year's contest, showcasing the region's rivers and creeks, landscapes, wildlife, night skies, communities, and treasured natural places. A panel of judges selected the contest's top entries, while the public selected the People's Choice Award winner.

The 2026 winners are:

- **Grand Prize:** Chase Fountain – *Blue Hole, Frio River*
- **First Runner-up:** David Cook – *The Stars at Night Are Big and Bright, South Llano River State Park*
- **Second Runner-up:** Walter Gerlach – *Enchanting Enchanted Rock, Enchanted Rock State Natural Area*
- **Third Runner-up:** Jeffrey Gladden – *Lounging on a Hot Summer Day, Kimble County*
- **People's Choice Award:** Cole Hoffman – *Just a Panoramic, Valley Spring in Llano County*

Together, this year's winning photographs offer a glimpse into the many places and experiences that make the Texas Hill Country such a special place. From its iconic rivers and dramatic landscapes to the starry night skies and diverse wildlife, the images celebrate the natural beauty that HCA and its partners work to protect.

In addition to the winning photographs, the **2027 Hill Country Calendar** features work from photographers across the region, including:

Airon Mothershed
Annie McEntire
Ashley Campbell
Autumn Graham
Baba Arimilli
Bill Weekley
Chi-Wei Chang
Daniel Filipe

Daniel Gomez
Gary Sertich
Ginger Frizzell
Jacob Perez
Jacob Saunders
Jerry Sargent
Joe Richards
Jules Womack

Khanh Le
Kim Smith
Leah Guerrero
Lindsay Fuller
Lindy Segall
Lisa Hood
Matthew Guthrie
Meghan James



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Michael Davis
Michael Lundy
Michael Wight
Michelle Graham
Mike Trantham

Mike Zarella
Monica Barrera
Nicholas Breaux
Robert Knerr
Sharon Carter

Sheila Ellwood
Steve Armstrong
Thomas Torget

The [2027 Hill Country Calendar](#) is available for purchase now through the Hill Country Alliance website. The calendar is a great way to celebrate the Hill Country throughout the year and makes a thoughtful gift for friends, family, and anyone who loves this special region.

The annual photo contest and calendar help HCA share the beauty of the Hill Country while inspiring greater appreciation for the land, water, night skies, and communities that define the region. As the Hill Country continues to experience rapid growth and change, these photographs offer a reminder of the places worth celebrating and protecting for generations to come.

To view the winning photographs, [click here](#).

About the Hill Country Alliance:

The [Hill Country Alliance](#) is a nonprofit organization that brings together a diverse coalition of partners to preserve the open spaces, starry night skies, clean and abundant waters, and unique character of the Texas Hill Country.