

December 1, 2019

2019 Accomplishments

Washington on the Brazos State Park Association
In partnership with the Historic Site



Texas Historical Commission Transfer:

◆ September 1, Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site transferred from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to the Texas Historical Commission.

◆ November 5, voters passed a constitutional amendment dedicating all the funds generated by the Sporting Goods Sales Tax revenue to support our state historic sites and state parks.

◆ THC met with the board to discuss future visitor enhancements at the site.

◆ Four Acres next door were purchased to aid in redesign of the entrance and parking.

Events

- **Beef on the Brazos:** Sold 1797 tickets to win 20 Braford heifers and presented WOB's story to a new, nationwide audience.
- **Texas Independence Day Celebration:** 4550 guests, New Texian Village with products "made in Texas." Full slate of performers, musicians, storytellers, including Singing Cadets, Aggie Wranglers, Ballet Folklorico, Celtaire, Wesoabi Nation, Polish Dancers and more.
- **Sundown Social:** Raised \$123,595 dollars on underwriting, raffle and auction items. Honored Jim Ellison and hosted almost 300 people at the Rockin' Star Ranch.
- **Juneteenth Heritage Celebration:** Continuing to grow this event with expanded exhibits, speakers, music and food. Approximately 650 visitors.
- **Bark in the Park:** Hundreds of visitors traveled to WOB for the first time, for a day of K9 demos, pet photography, pet friendly vendors and giveaways. Estimated 550 guests.
- **Farmer's Market** continues to flourish, operating 7-8 months of the year, culminating in a Holiday Market filling the conference center with handcrafted goods and edibles.
- **Fanthorp Inn** hosted almost 1,200 people on 321 tours lead by our interpreters. Three hundred people attended **Stagecoach Days. Twilight, Firelight** had 300 visitors with participation from Grimes County Historical Association.
- **Christmas on the Brazos**-expanded to a two-day event planned to include a wagon ride to Barrington Plantation, The Night Before Christmas story, revelers, refreshments and a barn dance.

Funding

- Partnered with **Texas Society of Children of the American Revolution** selling WOB lapel pins, which raised \$8500, allowing us to add the signer's names to the visitors' center glass and purchase items for the park, including a replica flintlock with powder horn and shot bag.
- Helped raise funds and finish construction of Barrington's Director's office, formerly the Doctor's office/feed storage building.
- Sold almost \$8,000 in **La Bahia Historic Pecan** seedlings.
- **Hot Funds** secured \$33,350 in Hot Funds through applications to Washington County & the Arts Council of the Brazos Valley.
- **Sponsorships**-Secured almost \$23,000 in sponsorship of Texas Independence Day Celebration, Bark in the Park and Juneteenth Heritage Celebration.

And More!!!

- **Social Media** Increased page likes from 7,328 to 10,138. Website averages 150 users a day, and have had 45,664 so far this year. 98% of visitors are first time users. Increasing presence on Instagram, with 369 followers so far.
- **Billboard** updated on Hwy 105.
- Sponsored **History Fair** with 160 school children participating. Approximately 7,700 schoolchildren toured WOB in 2019.