

AUSTIN AREA

CTBA
 • **Beginner/Intermed. Jam**
 1st & 3rd Thursday 7-9 pm
 Steve Mangold 512-345-6155
 • **CTBA Jam Session**
 Sunday at Artz Rib House
 3-5 pm, 512-442-8283
ARTZ RIB HOUSE
 • **Live Bluegrass Show**
 2330 S. Lamar, 6:00 pm
 512-442-8283
AAAMS JAM
 Wed, Anderson Mill Baptist
 Church, 10633 Lake Creek Pkwy
 Dinner 5:30 (\$3) 6:30-8:30 pm,
 259-7702- call to join for dinner
 • **AFTM (Austin Friends of
 Traditional Music) Contra Dance**
 3rd Sat., Lutheran church at 3501
 Red River 8-11 pm, \$7, 462-0511
 • **AFTM Jam Session**
 2nd Sun at Threadgill's South
 Barton Springs & Riverside, 2pm
SMITHVILLE
 • **WayStation Opry**
 1st Sat, 205 NE 2nd, 6 pm, Steve
 Boatright, 512-272-8008
BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION
 • **Jam Session**
 Monday: 6:00 to 8:00 pm
 Buppy's Catering 979-690-6951
 • **Jam Session and BG Show**
 2nd Sat: Jam-4pm, Show-7pm
 Wellborn Com. Ctr. 979-690-6951
CHRISMAN
 • **Jam**
 3rd Sat: 7-10 pm

Chriesman Community Center
 Don Cook 979-567-0573
CLEBURNE
 • **Show & Jam**
 3rd Fri Cleburne Civic Center,
 1501 W Henderson (Hwy 67) 7 pm,
 \$3 www.geocities.com/ntbbbluegrass
COPPERAS COVE
 • **Jam**
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 Veterans Ave 7 pm
 254-542-6710 wlangdon@hotmail.com
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 1 am Jim Miller 972-276-3197
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LEAGUE CITY (BABA)
 • **Jam & Free Bluegrass Show**
 3rd. Sat: Jam 5pm, Show 6:30
 Jan-Nov, League City Civic
 Center, 300 W. Walker St.
 713-990-5171

PARIS

• **Jam & Stage Show**
 3rd Sat: Jam 5:00, Show 7:00
 Chisum HS, Hwy 19 & 24, south
 of Paris \$5-members \$6-others
 Brenda Burks 903-784-8859

PEARL

• **Jam & Stage Show**
 1st Sat: Jam 12:00, Show 4:30
 Hwy 183, 7 mi. south of Purmela
 Ronald Medart 254-865-6013

ROCKNE

• **Bluegrass/Country Jam**
 1st Sat: 3pm til ..., 8 mi. S. of
 Cedar Creek on FM 535

TOMBALL

• **Spring Creek Club Jam/Show**
 4th Sat: 5pm-jam, 7pm-show
 Oklahoma Community Center,
 NE of Tomball 281 376-2959

SAN ANTONIO

• **Contra Dances**
 3rd Sat: 7:30 pm, International
 Folk Culture Center at Our
 Lady of the Lake Univ.
 512-434-6711, ext. 407

SOUR LAKE (Beaumont)

• **Jam & Free Show**
 Southeast Tx BG Music Assn
 3rd Sat: 4pm, Elementary
 School, Hwy 326 S,
 Edy Mathews 409-755-0622

WIMBERLEY

• **Bluegrass Jam**
 Fri: 7-11 pm, Idle Wild Deli @
 Poco Rio, 15395 R.R. #12, Alex
 Martin - 512/847-0430.

Central Texas BLUEGRASS



Bulletin

VOLUME 25
 NUMBER 5
 MAY 2003

FREDERICKSBURG SATURDAY NIGHT

MAY 17, 2002



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The CTBA, in conjunction with The Gillespie County Historical Society, present another great evening of bluegrass and roots music in beautiful historic Fredericksburg.

Entertainment provided by:
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 Richardson Seeds
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Musicians are also invited to attend a jam session and fellowship at the Pioneer Museum grounds starting @ 1pm. Jammers pay the discounted rate of \$5.00.

Print out the webpage at www.pioneermuseum.com/bluegrass-sevnts.htm and present it for a \$2 discount!

For more information call 830-997-2835 or email gchs@ctesc.net.

DONATE A CD

The CTBA is donating our Compilation Bluegrass CD to Marines and sailors on the USS Tarawa, an amphibious assault vessel now in the Persian Gulf. We are also asking member bands to donate one or more of their own albums.

I'm sure any album would be welcome and you'll never find a better audience than military people far from home. Anyone caring to donate some good bluegrass music should contact Cara Cooke (manchacaallstars@email.com). Help if you can!

CONGRATULATIONS

Rise & Shine, Eddie Collin's latest release, was the New Release Highlight in Flatpick Guitar Magazine.

WELCOME NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Jim Boyle, Cedar Break (band membership), Randy Collier (Old Settler's business membership), Emily Embree, Bobby Frudge, Steven Hagey, Doug Hancock, David McCanner and Tom Murphy.

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The Central Texas Bluegrass Association
 P.O. Box 9816
 Austin, TX 78766



For information on CTBA membership and activities, contact:
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 P. O. Box 9816
 Austin, Tx, 78766-9816
 512-261-9440
 email: ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org
 www.centraltexasbluegrass.org

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RANDALL'S GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

The CTBA number for this program is 9735. If you sign up, Randall's will donate a percentage of your purchases to the CTBA!

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Central Texas Bluegrass Bulletin

Editor: Steven Zimmet



EDITORIAL THOUGHTS

If you are a member, please send your email address to me at zimmet@skin-vein.com if you would like me to send you the newsletter in pdf format. sez

**CTBA Artists and Bands
 BOOKING INFORMATION**

- Austin Lounge Lizards:** Tom Pittman 512-454-8254
- Blackland Prairie Boys:** Clayton Elliott 512-898-2580
- Blazing Bows:** Mary Hattersley 512-873-8925 blazingbows@lycos.com
- Brazos Country Grass:** Gary Potter 979-690-6951 gdpotter@startel.net
- Cedar Break:** Jon Whitley 830-257-6043 cedarbreakmail@yahoo.com
- Eddie Collins:** 512-836-8255 eddiec@constant.com
- Grazmatics:** Mike Landschoot 512-454-7343
- Hard to Make a Living:** John Hood 512-376-7767 johnhood@grandecom.net
- Ledbetters Band:** Spencer Drake 210-698-2601 kthdrak@cs.com
- Manchaca All-Stars:** B. Buchanan 512-282-2756 manchacaallstars@email.com
- New Life PraiseGrass:** S. Boatright 512-272-8008 scmboatright@msn.com
- No Strings Attached:** Aubrey Skeen banjo6@earthlink.net
- Onion Creek Crawdaddies:** Trent Shepherd 512-912-9216
- Pet Rooster:** Jay Richardson 979-297-2709 5rs@quik.com
- Shawn Spiars** 512-218-3928 sspiars@abac.com
- Sieker Band:** Rolf and Beate Sieker 512-733-2857 thesiekers@aol.com
- The Spurs of the Moment:** Joan Chisholm 512-847-1182
- Wayfarers** Willa Porter 512-328-3058 wlbporter@aol.com
- Max Zimmet:** 512-327-6023 thegarage@swbell.net

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MUST HAVE A CTBA BAND MEMBERSHIP TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS LISTING. IF YOU ALREADY ARE A CTBA MEMBER, SIMPLY SEND IN THE ADDITIONAL \$5.00 TO BECOME A CTBA BAND MEMBER.

MONTHLY ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page 7"x9"	\$30.00	1/4 page 3"x4"	\$12.50
1/2 Page 7"x4"	\$15.00	1/8 page 3.5"x2"	\$10.00

Take \$10.00 off above rates if you are a business member.
 Copy deadline is the 15th of the month.
 Publication on or about the 1st.
 Contact the editor at thegarage@swbell.net for more information.

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LOCAL SHOWS

- May 4: **Grazmatics**, Artz Rib House*
- May 6: **Blackland Prairie Boys**, Baker's Firehouse Ranch 102 N. Evans, Little River (254) 982-9002, 6-9 PM
- May 9: **Manchaca All-Stars**, Manchaca Firehall 7:30 PM
- May 11: **Hard To Make A Living**, Artz Rib House*
- May 17: **HTML**, Richardson Seeds, Max Zimmet, Sarah Jarosz and Somebody's Sister Fredericksburg, 6:00 PM
- May 24: Tennessee Valley Authority Artz Rib House*
- May 25: **Eddie Collins**, Artz Rib House*
- May 30: **Blackland Prairie Boys**, Central Market Café North, 4001 N Lamar (512) 206-1000 6:30--9 PM

*Artz Rib House: 2330 S. Lamar, Austin 512-442-8283
 Please email (zimmet@skin-vein.com) or call (512-485-7700) the editor to have your show(s) listed.

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FESTIVALS & EVENTS

- May 9-10: Sandyland Bluegrass Reunion Nacogdoches, TX 936-569-1179, barrett@txucom.net
- May 9-10: 2nd Annual Amateur Bluegrass Festival, Tres Rios River Ranch, Glen Rose, TX 254-897-4253
- May 9-11: Longhorn Park Washington Cattle BG Fest Flomot, TX 806-469-5278
- May 15-17: Boys Ranch Bluegrass Festival San Angelo, TX 915-651-5370
- May 15-18: Carver's Spring Festival Queen City, TX 903-796-5487
- May 16-17: Oakdale Pk Bluegrass Picnic Glen Rose, TX 254-897-2321 www.oakdalepark.com
- May 16-18: Fire On The Strings Bluegrass Festival, Jellystone Park, Waller, TX 800-355-6928
- May 22-24: Triple Creek RV Park BG Weekend Woodville, TX 409-283-3642
- May 22-24: Monroe's RV Park BG Festival Texarkana, TX 903-791-0342
- May 23-25: Salmon Lake Park Gospel Music Fest Grapeland, TX 936-687-2594 info@salmonlakepark.com
- May 30-31: Melody Mtn Ranch Spring BG Fest Stephenville, TX 254-968-0801
- June 5-7: Lake Brownwood BG Festival Brownwood, TX 915-643-8011 nremison@earthlink.net
- June 13-14: 15th Ann. Overton BG & Gospel Music Festival, 903-834-3171, OvertonBluegrass@aol.com

Please contact venues for up to date information.

JOIN CTBA TODAY

A one year membership includes a subscription to the Central Texas Bluegrass Bulletin.
 Business membership includes a business card advertisement in each issue.
 Band membership includes a Booking Info listing.

Name _____ Date _____
 Address _____
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 Phones: Home _____ Work _____ Fax _____
 Email _____ Occupation _____

PLEASE NOTE THAT LISTENERS AND PICKERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN

- I can help with Committee work Festivals Newsletter Other _____
 Note that the following amounts are the minimum contribution amounts.
 Type of Membership: New Renewal Individual (\$20) Family (\$25) Band (\$25)
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 For Family, Band, and Patron Memberships, please append a list of the members of your family or band.
 I do not want my name and contact information included in a CTBA Membership Directory or in the CTBA

mailing list, which may be exchanged with other music and arts related organizations.
Mail your check and application to: CTBA P. O. Box 9816, Austin, TX, 78766-9816
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BANJO WORKSHOP

Eddie Collins will be hosting Dan Mazer (aka "Banjer Dan") from the Washington D.C. area for a banjo workshop specifically tailored to meet the needs of beginning and intermediate level players. It will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, June 29th at Artz Rib House. Contact Eddie at 836-8255 or eddiec@constant.com for more information and/or to reserve a spot (the workshop will be limited to 20 participants).

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MAY 17, 2003

TICKETS: \$10 IN ADVANCE
\$15 AT THE DOOR

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE PERFORMERS.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED; SEATING IS LIMITED TO 40

Peter McLaughlin and Chris Brashear have been performing together since 1992. Their music includes sibling-like vocal harmonies as well as stunning instrumental virtuosity. Though steeped in bluegrass tradition, they perform many original songs and draw from a deep repository of acoustic roots music. They perform on a variety of instruments including fiddle, mandolin and guitar.

Peter McLaughlin is the 1988 National Flatpicking Guitar Champion. He has toured and recorded extensively as a member of Laurie Lewis and Grant Street. His solo recording *Cliffs of Vermillion*, produced by Laurie Lewis, is available from Dog-Boy Records.

Chris Brashear is a vocalist, multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and an emerging artist on several musical fronts. He has made multiple showcase appearances at IBMA Fanfare, he performed for two years in Italy as violinist with the Maurizio Geri Swingtet (1996-1997). *Wanderlust*, his 1999 recording on Copper Creek records, featuring and produced by Jody Stecher is simply magnificent. His second recording as the group Perfect Strangers has just been issued on Copper Creek Records.

Both Peter and Chris are current Artists in Residence with the Arizona Commission on the Arts. McLaughlin is a frequent instructor at festival workshops, including the Rockygrass Academy and Oregon's Bluegrass at the Beach. Both were IBMA showcase artists with the group Perfect Strangers.

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T

OM SWATZELL, MASTER OF THE DOBRO

MAY 20, 1925 - NOVEMBER 27, 2002

Charles Thomas Swatzell Jr. was born in Decatur, Alabama. His childhood might have been the envy of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, passing summer days by hopping a freight train or paddling a row-boat out to a "mysterious" river island on the Tennessee River.

Tom's introduction to music was simple and refreshing. During the Depression in 1930, a man came through his town knocking on doors asking if anyone wanted to learn to play the Hawaiian guitar. Tom's parents, knowing his talent and love for music, signed him up. Although he had just a few lessons, the influence of these lessons can still be heard on his beautiful Hawaiian albums.

In the mid-1940's Tom began a 17 year "day job" at a department store while starting his musical career playing with various groups on Decatur radio stations. He later joined Curley Huntley and the Dixie Drifters, which became one of the most popular C&W groups in the region.

In the early 1960's, the Swatzells moved to Huntsville, Alabama. Tom started to teach music full time, while performing on the side. He established music studios in three North Alabama cities, teaching guitar, banjo, lap steel and later Dobro to innumerable students over more than a 25 year period.

In 1969 Tom obtained his first resonator guitar, a metal-bodied National. Ed Dopyera, one of the brothers who invented the National and Dobro guitars, took lessons from Tom and encouraged him to write a method book. "Country Dobro Guitar Styles," written along with son-in-law Ken Eidson, hit Mel Bay's best seller list. Tom and Ken wrote 3 other Dobro books.

In 1980, Tom's wife Bertha has a job transfer to Austin, Texas. With this move Tom retired from full time teaching and began touring the country on a regular basis. He adopted what has been called his "trademark" look: wide-brimmed Stetson hat, pointed toe cowboy boots, western shirt and bolo tie with the handmade Dobro slide. This look was not just for show, it was just "Tom:".

After Bertha retired in the early 1990's, she was able to join Tom full time, managing the business and sales. By this time, Tom was on the road most of the year. While maintaining his own performance and workshop schedule, Tom continued to team up with other artists, including many from the Grand Ole Opry. He had numerous engagements as a featured artist with Dobro instrumentals on Ernest Tubb's Midnight Jamboree, the Gibson Bluegrass Showcase in Nashville, and music trade shows for OMI and Gibson. Patsy Montana frequently featured him in her shows, including the Western Music Festival and the Grand Ole Opry. Tom had numerous TV and radio appearances around the country which included appearances on PBS, TNN and BBC. Tom toured New Zealand and Australia several times.

Along with his performances, Tom spent uncountable hours conducting workshops and giving private lessons to help both old and young learn the Dobro. The workshops ranged from college campuses to festivals across the country and beyond. A favorite venue was the Old Time Country Music Festival in Avoca, Iowa where Tom performed, judged and conducted annual workshops for 25 years.

Over the years, Tom continued to add to his legacy of numerous recordings. His first Dobro LP was produced in the early 70's at the request of Ed Dopyera, who wrote the liner notes. Tom's "Automobile of Life", with Charlie Collins and Curtus Hall, was released just prior to his death in 2002.

Tom gained a worldwide following through his Dobro instruction books, as well as his recordings and many appearances on stage, screen, radio and television. Although primarily known for his Dobro, he was an accomplished performer on banjo, guitar, mandolin, steel guitar and autoharp.

Tom received numerous honors and awards, some of which include induction into The International Singing Brakeman Association Hall of Fame in Mississippi, the South Texas Hall of Fame, and America's Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame in Iowa. In 1995 the Gibson Corporation honored Tom by producing the "Tom Swatzell" artist model Dobro guitar. Highlights of Tom's fifty plus career in country music have been recognized with memorabilia showcased at the Gene Autry Museum in Oklahoma and at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.

Tom's death was commemorated on radio stations internationally, with tributes and playing of his recordings. A memorial tribute was given by longtime friend Rodney Moag at the 1st annual Texas Resofest in Austin in January. Additional tribute performances are being scheduled throughout the country in 2003. Tom Swatzell III continues to manage the website for his Dad: www.tomswatzell.com.

Editor's Note: This article was excerpted from a biography written by Tom's wife, Bertha Swatzell.



TOM SWATZELL WITH HIS DOBRO WITH THE TREE OF LIFE INLAY
THIS WAS MADE SPECIAL FOR TOM BY ED DOPERA