

Central Texas BLUEGRASS Bulletin



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Stayton Bonner and Eddie Collins at Merlefest

Central Texas Shines Big at MerleFest

By Eddie Collins

Many CTBA members and Central Texas musicians played an integral part in the recent MerleFest – an annual music festival of enormous proportions held at the Wilkes Community College campus in Wilkesboro, NC from April 29th through May 2nd. This year's event, nestled in the Appalachian Mountains, drew a record attendance of nearly 82,500. I attended as a mandolin-playing side guy to Austin-based songwriter, Stayton Bonner. Stayton was selected as a finalist in the Chris Austin Songwriting Contest out of nearly 1,000 entries. Art Menius and Jim Lauderdale organized the event and Kelly Willis was one of the judges.

continued on inside...

CTBA MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

WINNER ANNOUNCED!

Choosing our 2004 Music Scholarship Recipient was a difficult task. All the applicants were very worthy. We are very happy to announce that this year's winner is Finn Lynch.



Fynn Lynch looks mighty pleased...

Finn is a 12-year-old boy who has been playing and studying (with Rolf Sieker) banjo for 3 years. Rolf wrote, "Finn is a very talented student ... who will be playing banjo the rest of his life. Finn is already a good player, but it would be good for him to get together with other players and pick and jam. He loves Bluegrass music."

With the scholarship Finn will be attending the one-week banjo program at Camp Bluegrass. Without the scholarship Finn would not be able to attend. Finn and his family are very excited.

Congratulations Finn!



CENTRAL TEXAS BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

For information on CTBA membership and activities, contact:

Central Texas Bluegrass Association
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

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CTBA Artists and Bands BOOKING INFORMATION

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Blazing Bows: Mary Hattersley 512-873-8925 blazingbows@lycos.com

Canyon River : Sonny Herpeche 830-597-5478 flattopdove@yahoo.com

Cedar Break: Jon Whitley 830-257-6043 cedarbreakmail@yahoo.com

Convict Hillbillies: Bryan Eagle 748-0380 eags@convicthillbillies.com

Cooper's Uncle: toddmichael311@hotmail.com

Cumberland Gap: Gary Potter 979-690-6951 gdpotter@startel.net

Eddie Collins: 512-836-8255 tuneman@texas.net

Farm Boys: Nicholas Dotin 512-657-0285 nicholas@farmershouse.com

Grazmatics: Mike Landschoot 512-454-7343

Hard to Make a Living: John Hood 512-376-7767 johnhood@grandecom.net

Ledbetters Band: S. Drake 210-698-2601 kthdrak1956@wmconnect.com

Manchaca All-Stars: B. Buchanan 512-282-2756 manchacaallstars@email.com

No Strings Attached: Aubrey Skeen banjo6@earthlink.net

Pet Rooster: Jay Richardson 979-297-2709 5rs@quik.com

Pine Island Station: Janine Carter 979-826-4068 j9carter@vectorlink.net

Red Eye: Randy Collier 512-423-70918 randyc@comp-utility.com

Sarah Jarosz & BlueEyedGrass: Sarah Jarosz 512-847-6104

mjarosz@austin.rr.com

Shawn Spiars 512-218-3928 sspiars@abac.com

Sieker Band: Rolf and Beate Sieker 512-733-2857 thesiekers@aol.com

Stayton Bonner: 512-431-8443 staytonbonner@hotmail.com

Steve Boatright Band: S. Boatright 512-272-8008 scmboatright@msn.com

3rd Generation Gospelgrass George Byrnes 210 649-2403

Wayfarers Mick Del Greco 210-479-5980 mickdel@juno.com

Wayward Pony: Dale Albright 512-267-4969 dale-mandolin@austin.rr.com

Willa & the Wanderers Willa Porter 512-497-6780 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

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Contact the editor at soapycows@hotmail.com for more info.

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Dear Editor,

Boy howdy, if The Times wasn't at this past Saturday night's Bluegrass and "Roots Music" concert, you all missed the musical story of the year! The roof came off the barn with some of the best Bluegrass and Western Swing pick'n this old fan of both has heard. And I'll bet the 300 or so folks who attended agree...the spirit of Bill Monroe and Bob Wills stood side-by-side on stage last Saturday night . It was a musical match made in heaven.

The hosting band was Hard To Make A Living, with appearances by The Seiker Band group and Eddie Collins and Friends. You may recall that HTML was in town a few weeks ago and played to a standing ovation. Individual performances were turned in by Steve Zimmet and his teenaged son, Max., who can stand on stage with the best guitar and mandolin pickers 'round Texas. He's a young man with a very big musical future. A great "family" performance was also delivered by Sarah Jarosz and her mom, Mary.

Sarah charmed the crowd as only a lovely twelve year old girl can. Accompanied by her mom (notice moms are always known as just...Mom), Sarah picked mandolin and sang with a voice that was far bigger than her tiny size. She's a young lady that will be knocking fans off their feet for a long time to come. Last, but by no means least, Fritz Morquecho was a very special guest and played throughout the evening, really helping put the show over the top. In all, more than a dozen terrific pickers and singers graced the stage. With all joining for a final "jam", filling the late night air with a joyful sound that shook the timbers 'round the old Pioneers Museum.

Betty and I, as well as a lot of other folks, want to thank The Gillespie County Historical Society and its financial supporters for bringing great family music to the Hill Country in a family friendly venue. They've given my wife and I an evening we will remember for years.

D. West

Changes to the CTBA Website

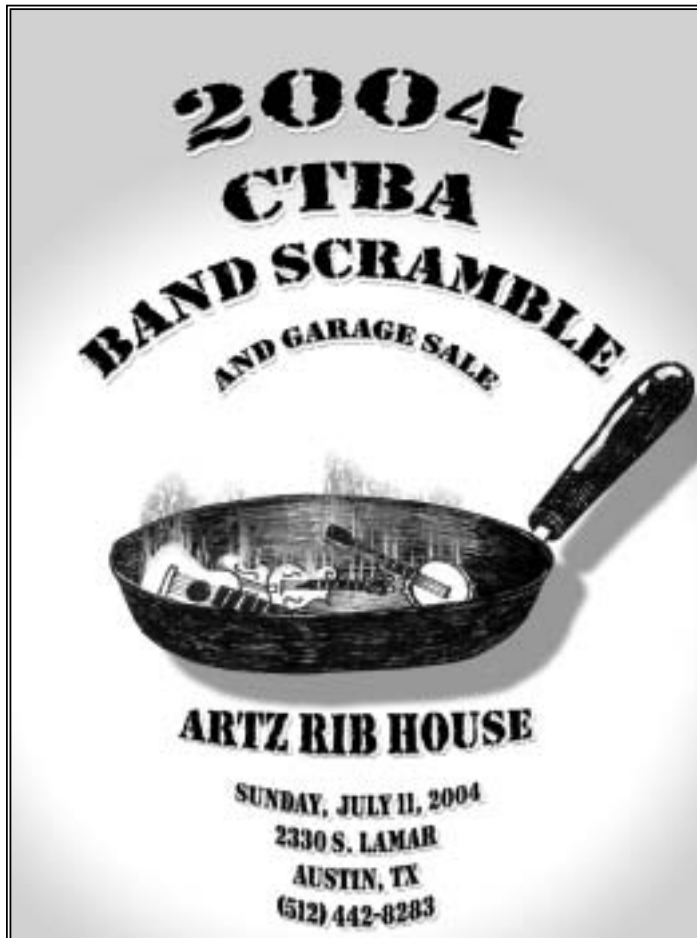
The CTBA website has been re-designed with a new look, layout and functionality. Post a message on the Bulletin Board, review the 25 year history of the CTBA or buy the CTBA Compilation CD online. You can also now join the CTBA online and make an online donation via our Paypal account. Review CTBA projects such as Bluegrass in the Schools and the Music Scholarship.

Please let us know if you have suggestions or comments.

NEW! Rolf Sieker Instructional Video

Songbird Video is proud to announce the release of a new banjo instruction DVD "Fiddle Tunes For The Banjo" with Rolf Sieker. Texas State Banjo Champion Rolf Sieker teaches seven fiddle tunes with picture-in-picture video, both fast and slow versions. Rolf plays the banjo of legendary banjo player Bobby Thompson. The songs include Dixie Hoedown, Blackberry Blossom, Katy Hill, Dusty Miller, Turkey In The Straw and more and are played in melodic and blues-melodic style. Banjo tab is included. For order information please contact Rolf at: TheSiekers@aol.com

CTBA Annual Band Scramble & Garage Sale



Sunday July 11th
artz ribhouse, 2330 S. Lamar
garage sale begins at 3 pm
scrambled bands formed at 6 pm
performances start at 7 pm
If you have stage experience, we invite you to throw your name in the "hat" for the Band Scramble. There will be hats for each instrument, from which names will be drawn to form the bands.

Everyone is invited to shop the music garage sale for CDs, books, videos, etc., and then cheer on your favorite Central Texas bluegrass musicians!

Musicians, please contact Eddie Collins at **836-8255** or eddiec@constant.com.

We really NEED YOUR SUPPORT for the Garage Sale ... So go clean out that old closet. We'll take any gently used cd's, instruction books, or anything pertaining to music or BLUEGRASS. Remember if you donate a "large ticket" item it can be written off on your taxes next year.

Please bring your donations to Artz

between 2 PM and 3PM the day of the event, call Jane Laughlin at 627-3963, or email us at central-texasbluegrass@yahoo.com and we will arrange to pick up your items.

June 15: The Great High Mountain Tou at The Backyard

The Great High Mountain Tour, featuring songs and performances by artists from the O Brother, Where Art Thou? and Cold Mountain soundtracks, will kicked off on May 5 in Knoxville, Tennessee, in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and is making its way across North America.

The show, modeled on the highly successful 2002 Down From the Mountain Tour and presented by Grammy winning producer T Bone Burnett, will feature several artists from that tour including: Alison Krauss (who performed two Oscar nominated songs in Cold Mountain) & Union Station featuring Jerry Douglas, Ralph Stanley, the Cox Family, Nashville Bluegrass Band, The Whites, and Norman & Nancy Blake. Dirk Powell, Riley Baugus, Tim Eriksen, and Reeltime Travelers will join them from the Cold Mountain soundtrack, as well as Ollabelle (a sextet who draws their inspiration from nineteenth and early-to-mid-twentieth century rural American music) and Sierra & Cody Hull (Sierra is a 12-year-old mandolin wizard who has performed on the Grand Ole Opry and PBS's All-Star Bluegrass Celebration, and who recently released her first independent release, Angel Mountain, with her brother Cody).

visit premier.startickets.com for ticket info.

Merlefest continued...

Stayton's tune, "Me and My Poodle" placed second in the Country Song category and his performance was singled out for a mention on CMT.com.

The hardest thing to do at MerleFest is decide what you are going to see and when. With sometimes as many as 12 stages active at the same time, shuffling from one performance, workshop, or contest to another takes some serious planning. The event was extremely well-organized, however, with starting times being nicely staggered and strictly adhered to – so you could catch at least some of a couple performances that were scheduled around the same time. Bands also played more than once and could be heard on different stages. Kelly Willis and Bruce Robison and the Derailers had sets on the Main Stage as well as on other stages. The stages were far enough apart so sound bleed-through was never a problem.

Other Austin-area bands that were all well-received by enthusiastic crowds included The Gourds, Reckless Kelly and the Two High String Band. Another local connection could be found in the Expo Tent, where Collings Guitars, along with other industry-related businesses, shared their wares.

Festival highlights ranged from Main Stage performances in front of over 15,000 people by the likes of Earl Scruggs and Vince Gil to intimate to smaller-scale performances by folks like Darol Anger and Mike Marshall. One of the greatest things for any hard-core bluegrass fan was seeing Doc Watson perform a duet with Earl Scruggs. An amazing moment for me was seeing what was billed as the John Cowan Band. I had told people that I wouldn't be attending that show as I didn't dig the stuff I'd seen him do lately, which was mainly regurgitated 60s rock with very little bluegrass. I inadvertently found myself passing by the venue mid-way through the band's performance to hear thunderous applause at the conclusion of a song. With luck, I found one empty seat in an auditorium that seated about 600. Turns out Pat Flynn was on guitar and the group was playing many of the songs from the heyday of New Grass Revival. Cowan received no less than five standing ovations after the completion of songs in the set and came back for a 15 minute encore at the end (wisely, no band was scheduled after them!). Adding to the excitement was Wayne Benson on mandolin, Jeff Autry on guitar, Luke Bulla on fiddle and Rex Reed on banjo. One show stopper included a 5-part a capella gospel rendition of A-Men in which the whole audience sang and clapped along.

In essence this is the magic of MerleFest you will hear about from all who have attended – that they were treated to something totally unexpected in addition to meeting all their high, pre-festival expectations. Like our own Old Settler's Music Festival, MerleFest offers much more than just bluegrass, but if you're a fan of bluegrass, you'll not come away disappointed. Far more likely, you'll come away feeling like you'll want to return year after year.

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Bulletin emailed to you?**

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Bluegrass Trivia Quiz

by Gordon Daugherty

Which was the first bluegrass band to play the White House?

- a) The Stanley Brothers
- b) Bill Monroe/Blue Grass Boys
- c) The Osbornes
- d) Reno and Smiley
- e) Flatt and Scruggs/Foggy Mt Boys

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Answer: (c) The Osborne Brothers played the White House March 17, 1973 for President Nixon, family, and dignitaries. In the Banjo Newsletter of June, '79, Sonny Osborne said, "That's right, and get this, we were the first country/bluegrass group ever to play inside the White House [emphasis in original]." It's recorded elsewhere they appeared along with The Merle Haggard Show but presumably played first, thus earning the distinction.

Osborne mentioned this by way of saying that, as important as this gig was to him, it didn't compare to the time—at Knoxville in 1953—he first saw Earl Scruggs play. He also believed other top banjo players felt the same ("... each of you, if you would admit it, would have some kind of story to tell about the first time you saw Earl play.") Now, ordinary fans often say this but it's really something to learn Scruggs had the same effect on the pros. Osborne joked that none of them would even pick up a banjo if Earl was around.



In a generally poignant article, Osborne went on to say, "Earl Scruggs was the most perfect musician I have ever known ... from about 1949 to 1957 ... [but]... he doesn't play like that any more." The last time he heard Earl play, in about 1975, "... I listened for about 30 minutes and quickly retreated to the bus."

Scruggs, of course, had split with Lester Flatt in 1968 and started playing different music. According to Osborne, in 1964 Scruggs told him he'd lost interest in the banjo the past 10 years. Osborne quoted Stringbean, an old-time picker: "You know what's wrong with Earl? He's played out—he don't know what else to play."

In the May, '02 Bulletin I mentioned the Scottsville Squirrel Barkers, an early '60's San Diego band who made one album--an "undiscovered gem". I said it was available through Amazon but had to retract that later. It is now available at www.sierra-records.com with new liner notes and re-mastered sound. I have finally replaced the tired (oh-so-tired!) LP I bought for \$1.00 over 40 years ago at a grocery store in Corpus.

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CALENDAR

LOCAL SHOWS

June

- 6, **Charlie St. George & The Memory Makers Orchestra**, 3:00 pm & 6:00 pm, Georgetown Palace Theatre
- 12, **Jim Ivy & The Jinx Street Band** at 7 pm Georgetown Palace Theatre
- 13, **Grassy Knoll Boys**, Artz Rib House
- 18, **Convict Hill Gang**, Artz Rib House
- 19, **Grazmatics**, Artz Rib House
- 22, **Eddie Collins and Friends** 6:00 – 11:00 PM. The Pioneer Museum, Fredericksburg, TX. Special all-bluegrass evening concert, HTML, the Sieker Band, Max Zimmet and Sarah Jarosz. The 6:30 – 7:00 portion of the show will be broadcast live on KFAN radio. Eddie will be joined by Paul Sweeney on mandolin, Mike Montgomery on fiddle and Clayton Elliott on bass.
- 23, **Eddie Collins** with special guests Mike Landscoot (Guitar) and Bob Pool (bass). Classic Country, Western Swing and Bluegrass. 6:00 – 8:30 PM. Artz Ribhouse
- 26, **Sieker Band**, Artz Rib House
- 27, **To Be Announced**, Artz Rib House
- 27, **Songwriter's night hosted by Stayton Bonner** 9:30 – Midnight. Tambaleo, 302 Bowie St (SE corner of 5th and Lamar) Austin, TX. - Special guest will be Danny Santos. Eddie Collins will perform with both Stayton and Danny and will play a few songs of his own as well. (512) 472-3213.
- 26th, **The Greencards** at the Georgetown Palace Theatre, 7:00pm, www.TheGeorgetownPalace.org

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

June

- 11th-12th— **Overton Bluegrass Festival**, Overton, TX
- 13th-19, **38th Annual Bill Monroe Memorial Bean Blossom Bluegrass Festival**, The oldest, continuous running bluegrass festival in the world!, www.beanblossom.com
- 19-20, **The Mayville Bluegrass Festival**, Mayville, NY, www.angelfire.com/folk/mayvillebgf
- 25th, 26th, 27th, **14th Annual Bluegrass River Festival Weekend**, grassybudd@webtv.net
- 17-20, **Telluride Bluegrass Festival**, www.planetbluegrass.com

July

- 10 **Bluegrass Festival**, 903-797-3622, Gilmer, TX (Civic Center)
- 23-25, **RockyGrass**, www.bluegrass.com

Please contact venues for up to date information.

Attention all bands and musicians,
 email the editor to announce your show by the 20th of each month! You can also submit articles, photographs, songs or tablature or any other ideas you think might be good in the CTBA Bulletin. Authors/artists always retain copyright of submitted materials.
email: soapycows@hotmail.com

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 Business membership includes a business card advertisement in each issue.
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 Note that the following amounts are the minimum contribution amounts.

Type of Membership: New Renewal Individual (\$20) Family (\$25) Band (\$25)
 Patron (\$30) Business/Sustaining (\$50) Student (\$15)

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

Contributions to CTBA are tax deductible as allowed by Internal Revenue Service Code Section 501 (c) (5).

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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
2-5 pm, 512-442-8283

ARTZ RIB HOUSE

• **Live Bluegrass Show**

2330 S. Lamar, Sunday 6:00 pm
512-442-8283

AAAMS JAM

• 2nd + 4th Wed, Anderson Mill
Baptist Church, 10633 Lake Creek
Pkwy 258-5843,

Leander Jam, Friday, 7-9, 260-8838

AFTM

• **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

FLATONIA

• **Jam**

4th Saturday

Thumper's Roadhouse Grill

Stuart & Diane Raef 361-865-2154

GARLAND

• **Bluegrass on the Square**

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HARWOOD

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3rd Sat, 9 mi. E. of Luling,

Hwy 90, 2-9 pm,

Ben Buchanan 512-263-7193

LULING

• **Bluegrass Jam Session/Show**

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E. Travis, 4:00, 830-875-2917

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 Purlmela

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 939-865-5250

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)

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Southeast Tx BG Music Assn

3rd Sat: 4pm, Elementary

School, Hwy 326 S.

Eddy Mathews 409-755-0622

WIMBERLEY

• **Bluegrass Jam**

Fri: 8-12 pm, Charlie's Catfish

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The Central Texas Bluegrass Association

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