

Central

Texas Bluegrass

IBMA Member

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Jake Workman wins State of TX Banjo AND Flatpicking Awards!



Jake Workman blew away the audience and all the other contestants to win in BOTH the **State of Texas Banjo Championship** AND the **State of Texas Flatpicking Championship for 2010**. It wasn't really a cakewalk for the young man from Salt Lake City, UT. He had to compete against the 2002 National Flatpicking Champion Scott Fore and a host of equally good actual Texans. First inspired to play banjo by his parents he was later inspired to play the guitar after hearing Josh Williams. Like his guitar playing, his banjo playing is smooth and clean and has won him numerous awards. Listeners can check him out on MySpace and YouTube. He was also featured in "Flatpicking Guitar Magazine" last month. Dan Miller (of FGM) first met Jake at Winfield which is where I first saw him too. I know that I wasn't alone in voting for Jake to win the Winfield competition but it wasn't his year. My guess is that he will take the honors this year. Check out his CD "Rocky Mountain Hideaway".

Photo by Travis Posey; story by Tom Duplissey



CTBA Announces Scholarship Awards!

Central Texas Bluegrass Association's Willa Porter Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce the awarding of this years scholarships to the following individuals:

Adam Greer, banjo, Burton, TX

John Peyton (JP) Shafer, mandolin, Woodway, TX

Devin Paynkewicz, mandolin, Baytown, TX

All of these fine young people had numerous recommendations from friends, professional musicians, and family. Congratulations to all the recipients!

CTBA Willa Porter Scholarship covers tuition and on-site room and board to allow aspiring bluegrass musicians to attend an Acoustic Music Camp of their choice this coming summer. The camps should be instruction based and noted for having quality instructors. The amount to be awarded to each recipient will be up to \$500. The recipient of the scholarship is responsible for additional costs and all travel expenses and other expenses incurred. Applicants must be 12 or over. Any given camp may have age restrictions and/or require that minors be accompanied by an adult. Your CTBA membership and donations help fund this program. Thank you & congratulations winners!



OH, I HAD A PIECE OF PIE,
I HAD A PIECE OF PUDDIN'
I GIVE IT ALL AWAY TO SEE MY SALLY GOODIN'



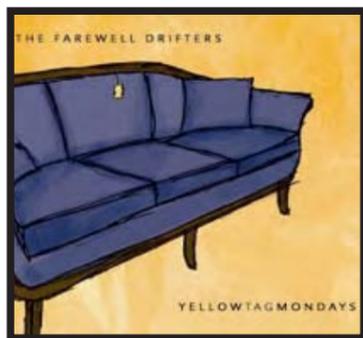
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The Listening Post

Farewell Drifters release "Yellow Tag Mondays"

The Farewell Drifters are a young group of musicians influenced by groups like Nickel



Creek but bringing their own unique blend of harmonies and excellent musicianship. *Yellow Tag Monday's* showcases their complex, sophisticated playing on a backdrop of "disarmingly honest songwriting".



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- Tell people about the
- scholarships for acoustic
- music camps. This is a
- good thing for our young
- people!
- Tell your friends about
- the BAND SCRAMBLE and
- GARAGE SALE at Artz Rib
- House July 3rd. This is our
- primary fundraiser so we
- don't bug you all year.
- Buy a CD from a CTBA
- Band! Support Bluegrass!



The Listening Post is a forum established to monitor bluegrass musical recordings, live performances, or events in Texas. Our mailbox sometimes contains CDs for us to review. Here is where you will find reviews of the CD's Central Texas Bluegrass Association receives as well as reviews of live performances or workshops.

The Grascals play several Texas locations

Ft. Worth, Austin, Dallas, and Bay Area Bluegrass Association's Fire on the Strings were just a few of the TX performances by the band that won **SPBGMA's Bluegrass Band of the Year in 2010**. The Grascals gave TX a taste of why this band was able to capture such a prestigious award.

The "bookends" are the masterpiece of this fine band. On one end they have mandolin ace Danny Roberts and on the other is the two time IBMA winner of **Banjo Player of the Year** Kristin Scott Benson. Folks attending the Fire on the Strings show may recall the song that was suppose to feature the fiddler,



PHOTO BY KEN BROWN

Out, Jim Hurst, Roland White, and Rhonda Vincent, so her resume is as impressive as her playing.

Danny Roberts released a CD back in 2004, *Mandolin Orchard*, that is one all mandolin players should own. Danny was featured at Fire on the Strings playing "Bonaparte's Retreat" which is also on his CD.

The Grascals latest CD, entitled *The Famous Lefty Flinn's* was released in March. The CD contains some excellent three-part harmonies, especially on "Satan and Grandma". Admittedly, the title of this ballad is a little strange but it's a "powerful testimony to the strength of a righteous grandmother" against Satan. They cover Steve Earle's "My Old Friend the Blues" and include a folk song entitled "Out Comes the

Sun". Don't get me wrong, this is straight ahead, in your face bluegrass CD from the lead off cover of the Monkee's "Last Train to Clarksville" until the fine gospel tune "Give Me Jesus" at the very last.

The Grascals are a Grammy nominated, White Dove group that really was a delight to have visit Texas. Still, I have to say that there was something unusual about them too. I couldn't put my finger on it. I asked Ken Brown what he thought and Ken summed it up for me. He said, "I'm not sure any band should have TWO rhythm guitar players". Maybe that was it.. One thing is for certain, the "bookends" make this a band worth seeing the next chance you get.



Jeremy Abshire. Jeremy kicked it off in high gear but it was the awesome solos of Danny and Kristin that made the audience give them a standing ovation.

Kristin has a quality of playing that displays perfect timing and expected Scruggs style and yet during all of her solos there was always that little extra something she throws in that made you think you might be hearing the banjo for the very first time. Kristin is actually the newest member of the band. She's played with Laurie Lewis, Josh Williams, Illrd Tyme



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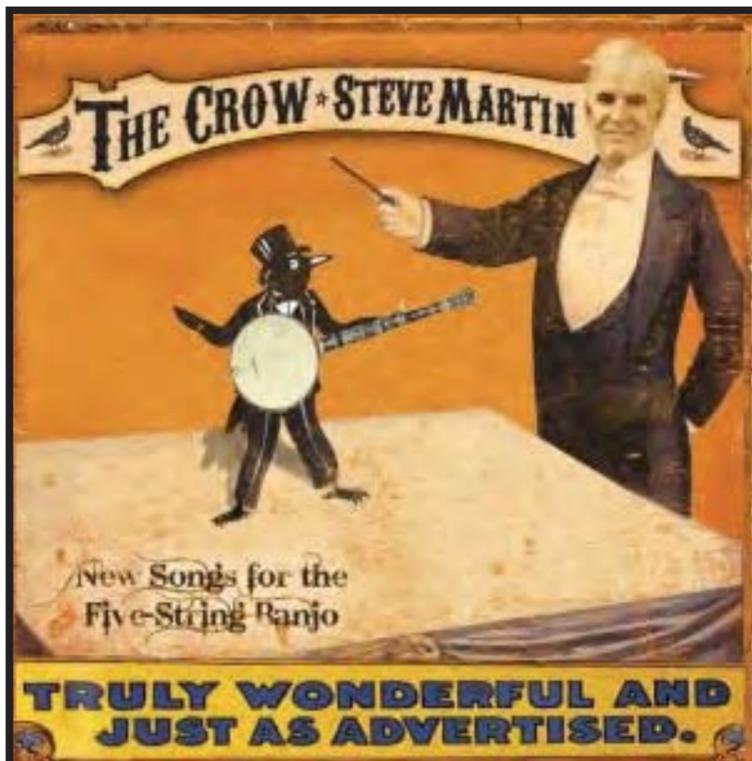
Steve Martin & Steep Canyon (4/25/10)

By Jon Ricketts

It was a tough decision to make, and one you probably only have to make in Austin, Tx - I had to make a decision to see only one of 3 shows I was interested in on a Sunday night. There was Sarah Jarosz performing at the Cactus Cafe, ZZ Top at the Backyard, and Steve Martin with the Steep Canyon Rangers at the Long Center. It was a tough choice indeed - I'm a big ZZ Top fan but have never caught them live, and I've seen Sarah J a few times in the last few years (including a great performance at Rockygrass in Lyons). Being a lifelong fan of Steve Martin, and the fact that his tour was likely the "rarest" event in town, I went with Steve Martin, and it sure was a great decision!

Steve is currently on tour to support his new banjo album called "The Crow." The album features 14 songs mostly written by Steve, save for two songs co-written, and one traditional medley. While the album features a number of guests such as Tim O'Brien, Earl Scruggs, and Dolly Parton (among many others), he's joined on the tour by the Steep Canyon Rangers - recent IBMA award winners and an up and coming bluegrass songwriting machine. Steve and the Rangers delivered a two hour show that I'm sure will rank as one of my favorites for a long time.

I recall in the days leading up to the show, I had this ongoing debate with myself over whether Steve was going to be funny, or would we see only his serious side as he focused on his music. Who was I kidding? As it turned out, comedy was a big part of the night. Don't get me wrong, the music was the main course, but



between just about every song he spun off some hilarious banter and one-liners (unfortunately he never donned the rabbit ears and arrow through the head). He was also using his iPad as a setlist and it set the stage for a number of funny moments ("...excuse me, it's been 40 minutes since I Googled myself..").

Throughout the night the music was a mix of both instrumental and vocal numbers, many featuring the Steep Canyon Rangers' vocalist and guitarist Woody Platt. Switching between 6 banjos, Steve was equally at home on Scruggs' style numbers and clawhammer.

While Steve was definitely the centerpiece of the night, he really did a great job keeping the Steep Canyon Rangers at the forefront as well - they took the lead on many numbers and served as the butt of a number of funny one-liners and tales from Steve. At the middle point of the show, Steve excused himself from the stage (after grabbing a cold Shiner Bock from the bass player) and let the Steep Canyon Rangers take over for awhile. These guys are a great band, and in my opinion, their most impressive number was a tight gospel harmony tune called

"I Can't Sit Down. The song featured tightly woven and intricate 4 part harmony - think of it as "Get Down On Your Knees and Pray" on steroids.

While not quite the same as going to see Tony Trischka or Bela Fleck (from a "banjo chops" perspective), listening to Steve play one could tell that he's spent a lifetime playing the banjo and is a natural at coaxing musical sounds out of his instrument. Many of the tunes he played sounded a lot like the little back porch ditties that we all often come up with during a good practice session. But he and the musicians he's partnered with on this project have taken those tunes to a new level.

In the end I believe the evening was a smashing success due to the mix of all of the elements together: the excitement of getting to see a legendary comedian and actor in person; great music and great musicians, and the humor. The show never let up for a moment - you were either laughing, tapping your foot, or a mix of both. I had a smile on my face the entire evening.



**ENJOYING YOUR FREEDOM?
THANK A VETERAN!!!**

Fire on the Strings Music Festival (5/13-15/10)

This year's Fire on the Strings festival was once again held at the Lake Conroe / North Houston KOA Campgrounds in Montgomery, TX. There was a super lineup of bands for



this year's event. Many of the bands were "regulars" at the monthly meetings of the Bay Area Bluegrass Association in League City, TX. Thursday's bands were **Brazos River Pickers**, **Justified** (photo above), **Southern Style**, **Cypress Creek**, **Kerry Jones & Eric Late**, and **THE GRASCALS!** Friday had some of the same artists returning but audiences got an opportunity to hear **Buffalo Nickel**, **Blue River** (featuring last year's State of TX Flatpicking Champ - Mike Morrison), **LoneStar Bluegrass Band**, and **Buddy & Tina Wright**.

Saturday morning the Banjo Championship started early followed by the Flatpicking Championship. BOTH events were won by Jake Workman. There was also a Youth Showcase with **Highlands Crossing** and several others. Later returning bands of Cypress Creek, Kerry Jones & Eric Late, were joined by **White Dove**, **The Bluegrass Solution**, and the always awesome **Hays County Burn Band**. There were also many workshops and of course there were plenty of jams in full force all day and all night! I was impressed at the number of young people in attendance and was amazed at how



well all of them played their instruments. Many, many thanks to the folks at Bay Area Bluegrass for putting together this fantastic event. We all look forward to next year!!!



Picks, Happenings, and Releases



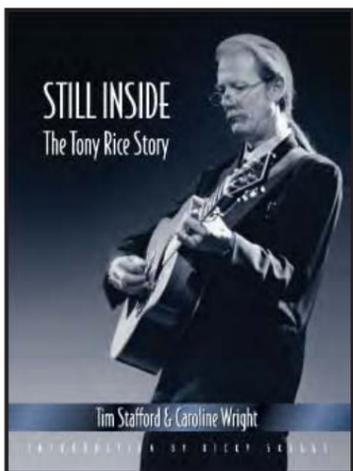
The **BIGGEST BLUEGRASS EVENT EVER** (well maybe not) is coming to ArtZ Rib House on July 3rd, 2010. That's right! It's time once again for the Central Texas Bluegrass Association's Annual Garage Sale and Band Scramble. Help CTBA by donating musical items to the Garage Sale and come out to Artz and BE A STAR! Contact Eddie Collins (512) 873-7803 or Jami Hampton (512) 658-3451.



The **Austin Music Foundation** provides Boot Camps, Small Group Sessions, and Mixers for aspiring musicians, marketers, and songwriters. In April they had Berkley songwriting instructor **Pat Pattison**. For some great instructional video's search for Pat on "You Tube" or go to his web site and select "videos". In May they had a Small Group Sessions on "Do It Yourself Merchandise Strategies" and a Boot Camp entitled "Tips for Success from Inside the Music Biz".



Mentioned last month was **The Bluegrass Blog**. If you haven't gone to the site, or if blogs aren't your thing you may just want to sign up for alerts or become friends on "Facebook" with them. They provide updates on people and products in the news. **John Lawless** out of Ronoake, VA maintains the site. John also owns **Acutab**. Acutab is one of the leading producers of educational material for bluegrass musicians. **Barry Bales** (bass), **Sierra Hull** (mando), **Ron Block** (banjo), and **Jim Van Cleve** (fiddle) all have NEW material on the site. John has also made a special Acutab offer to Central Texas Bluegrass Association. Check out <http://www.acutab.com/closeout.html>



It could be argued that flatpicking giant Tony Rice has influenced more bluegrass guitar players than any other musician. Now after over ten years in the making "Still Inside, The Tony Rice Story" has been released. Authors Carolyn Wright and Tim Stafford combined their talents to co-write this great book. You can order it direct from the web site. There are still some autographed copies available the last time we checked. In the next month or two CTBA will have articles written on some of our favorite bluegrass books. I'm sure this book will be listed as recommended reading. By the way, co-author Caroline Wright was in Austin in May visiting with CTBA members Trish Taylor and Kevin Willette.



If you want to learn about how you can meet some of the Pioneers of Bluegrass along with some of Monroe's Bluegrass Boys visit the folks at the **International Bluegrass Music Museum**. IBMM is having its **River of Music Party (ROMP)** on June 23-26, 2010. IBMM is a long time supporter of Central Texas Bluegrass Association. To listen to some of their library of CD's, click on the **Radio Bluegrass International**. The station plays a lot of bluegrass from the famous and obscure artist including European and Asian artists.



Instructors for 2010 Camp Bluegrass are Bill Evans, Alan Munde, Gerald Jones and Ned Luberecki, banjo; Adam Granger, Elliott Rogers and Tim May, guitar; Joe Carr, Steve Smith and Nate Lee, mandolin; Ed Marsh and Megan Lynch, fiddle; Tim McCasland, Dobro; Bill Honker, bass; and Chris Sanders, vocals. For more information, call Joe Carr, associate professor of Music, at (806) 544-9703 or (806) 716-2493 or visit the web site www.campbluegrass.com.



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Try not to miss it!!!! The Hill Country Acoustic Music Camp is JUNE 2nd-6th at Schreiner University in beautiful Kerrville, TX. Call Bob to let him know you are coming at (830) 459-2120. You will make his day and yours will be better too. Bob's email is rhm@tacef.org



Corrections to last month's newsletter..

-on page 2, "Jim Lawless, who also runs Acutab", should read "John Lawless".

- on page 9 "Audie Blalock" should be "Audie Blaylock"

Acoustic Music Camp

August 5-7, 2010 Arlington Texas

A three day camp for Bluegrass & Clawhammer Banjo, Mandolin, Flatpick & Django Guitar, Dobro, Fiddle, Songwriting, Vocal / Harmony & Bass

Kenny & Amanda Smith

Guitar - Vocal / Vocal Harmony

Jason Burleson & Shawn Lane

of Blue Highway | Banjo - Mandolin

Brad Davis

Guitar

Texas Shorty

Fiddle

Paul Glasse

Mandolin

Ned Luberecki

Banjo

Gerald Jones

Banjo/Mandolin

Wil Maring

Songwriting

Dan Levenson

Clawhammer Banjo

Nate Lee

Mandolin / Fiddle

Robert Bowlin

Guitar/ Fiddle

Clay Powers

Guitar

Dennis McBride

Dobro

Alan Tompkins

Beginner Banjo

Tom Nechville

Camp Banjo Doctor

Bryan Kimsey

Camp Guitar / Mandolin Doctor

Only 15 minutes away from DFW Airport and conveniently near major malls, Six Flags Over Texas, and water parks. We chose our talented lineup of instructors because they are great pickers, great teachers and great people.

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214-236-0783

Learnin' a Little (Here and There) You Are Never Too Old To Learn To Pick

By Eddie Collins

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the January 2005 issue of "Banjo Newsletter" and is reprinted with their permission. Although slanted towards learning the banjo, many of the insights could apply to learning any instrument later in life. Check out Eddie's many instructional materials at his website: www.eddiecollins.biz.

I would like to dedicate this article to the young at heart—those of us who find ourselves saying “I wish I would have started at that age” every time we see a youngster picking a banjo. I hear from many pickers around the country who tell me they didn't even begin their pursuit of the banjo until the kids were out of the house and/or they retired. There's a whole other group that got started back in the Dueling Banjo-crazed days of the 1970s, but put the instrument down to raise a family and are now just getting back to it. Here, I address issues unique to this group of late bloomers, and at the same time, include tips that should prove useful to anyone in their early stages of learning the banjo. For purposes of organization, the article is broken into topic areas.

Physical Limitations. Some individuals forget that learning an instrument has a physical side to it. Most would recognize that the mere size of a banjo would make it unlikely that a four-year old would comfortably be able to learn where to put his or her fingers. Conversely, an older individual learning to play may have physical limitations. This is obvious to the person who suffers from arthritis, but may not be as apparent to individuals who worked in professions that stifled the development of fine motor skills. One retired student I worked with was a plumber. He had spent his entire adult life using his hands to clutch things (pliers, wrenches, pipes, etc.). As such, what was needed in his early learning was a series of exercises to open up his hands to help get the fingers working individually, rather than as a unit. To many learners, this is a frustrating step since they wish to immediately hear tunes coming out of their instrument. You wouldn't expect someone to run a 10K without conditioning for it. Likewise, don't expect miraculous results in your picking without a willingness to condition your hands.

Selecting a Teacher. Don't underestimate the positive effect of finding a teacher who can guide you through the difficulties of early learning. Older beginners often go about learning the banjo the way they would a new task at work—get out the manual and skip over a lot of the detail. They forget that they could do this in their workplace since they had years of training in their chosen field and could selectively omit things that they knew from experience weren't relevant to the task at hand. If fundamentals such as good hand position and timing are learned correctly, you won't have to do a lot of relearning later. A talented instructor can correct bad habits before they become a problem and help you with things that go way beyond the written page of books or images of a video. For best results, try to commit to taking lessons on a regular basis; weekly is best.

As a student, realize it is your responsibility to find the right instructor. Not every instructor is right for every student.

Many great players are not great teachers. Look for an instructor who exudes patience—someone who can empathize with the fact that learning may not come easy. Every instructor will have knowledge to impart. Those with a “My way or the highway” approach will connect with some students, but will leave those who “don't get it” thinking they are unfit to play music. Good instructors have several ways to present any given concept, which allows you to pick the method that works best for you. Ultimately, you as the student must sense whether or not the chemistry is conducive to learning.

If you do not live near a qualified instructor, be willing to approach pickers at music gatherings or festivals. You will find that most will be glad to share insights as to how they learned or where you can get good materials for self-study.

Develop a Support System. To successfully learn an instrument at any age it is important to have the support of others. Do not force this role upon your spouse if he, or she, is less than enamored with the sound of the banjo. His or her support may simply come in the form of allowing you the personal satisfaction of pursuing your interest. Organizations, such as bluegrass associations and/or organized jam sessions, provide an excellent opportunity to meet others who share both similar interests and struggles. Many individuals who start to learn an instrument later in life are frustrated that they can't play tunes as fast as they would like. One remedy is to get together with others willing to perform pieces that are accessible to everyone involved (Editor's note: See the CTBA's calendar for a listing of beginner and intermediate jams). It is important to learn the rhythm to songs to which you know a lead in order to trade off solos with others.

Chatting with other pickers via computer and the Internet is another good way to discover that others share many of the problems you encounter. Talking through frustrations often leads to a renewed enthusiasm for practice. Banjo Hangout and Mandolin Cafe are just two of many excellent sites for this purpose.

Listening. One thing the majority of those choosing to learn the banjo have in common is they love the sound of it. This attraction to the instrument due to its unique sound is something all level of students should keep in mind as they continue to progress. Knowing what a tune or lick is supposed to sound like before attempting to learn it is key to both quick and accurate learning. Amazingly, many students who come to me really haven't listened to banjo music on a regular basis. This situation must be remedied immediately! Develop a collection of banjo (or instrument of your choice) recordings, especially pieces you intend to learn someday, and listen to them repeatedly. Ask your instructor or banjo-picking buddies for suggested titles. The more listening you do, the better your chance of successfully playing the pieces at a later date.

The Learning Environment. When faced with a new task in the workplace, we are/were in a surrounding built to ensure that we succeed in learning it. We have appropriate resources; expert speakers brought in and places to practice our new skills without intrusions from the outside world. With our hectic lives, how many of us have really created a banjo-

friendly learning environment?

Try to create a banjo "sanctuary" (complete with pictures of Earl and other heroes on the wall) if possible—a place where you can fully concentrate on your playing without interruptions from the phone, TV, radio or similar distractions. Likewise, try to practice without disturbing those around you. Be willing to do routine listening using headphones and practice with a mute, if necessary. As you become a better player, an occasional demonstration of your accomplishments at full volume is likely to be better received. Find time to practice when others aren't around, since much of your practice should be at full volume (without a mute) in order to insure developing good technique and tone.

Selecting a Prize Instrument. Players who begin later in life are usually more affluent than younger beginners. As such, many (in my opinion) make the mistake of buying an expensive, high-quality banjo too early in their endeavor. As you progress as a player, your ear becomes more discerning and you will become more critical of the overall tonal quality of the particular instrument you play. It is at this point that searching for the ultimate instrument makes sense. Prior

to this, without a developed ear, you would be susceptible to buying what somebody else determines is a good instrument, when in fact it is not compatible with your sound. I suggest people save the purchase of that special banjo for achieving a milestone in their learning. Your thought should be "I'm going to learn to play 'Foggy Mountain Breakdown' before I get my next banjo," not "Unless I get a better banjo, I'll never learn 'Foggy Mountain Breakdown.'"

Finally, with the preceding having been said, all individuals attempting to learn the banjo will progress at different rates—no matter what their age. It may be that another banjo retiree you encounter played guitar years ago and thus will progress faster than you. Try to set attainable goals that are yours alone. You've worked your entire life for this moment—to sit around and do nothing but play banjo! So no matter what your pace of learning, sit back and enjoy the moment—you earned it!

Eddie Collins
tuneman@austin.rr.com



The Gospel Bluegrass Corner

In 1734 John Wesley published "A Collection of Psalms and Hymns". It is thought to be the first book of religious songs published in the colonies. It also challenged the notion that Psalms were the only legitimate religious songs and included ballads like "Barbara Allen" and "Home Sweet Home".

- taken from "Rural Roots of Bluegrass" by Wayne Erbsen

13th Annual Salmon Lake Gospel Festival (5/28-30/10)

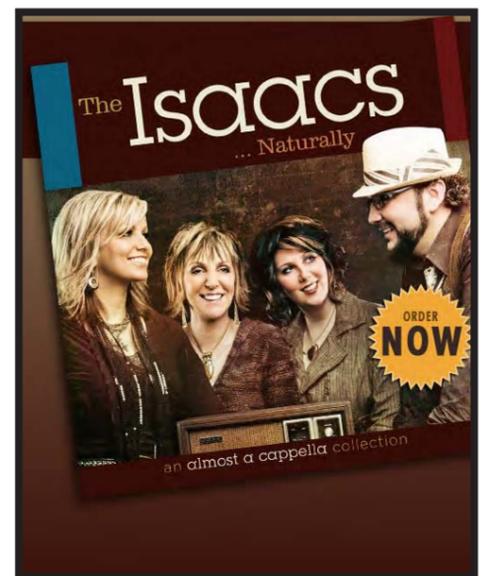
By Tom Duplissey

We would need a little divine intervention to be able to review this festival and get this newsletter to you the very next day so I'm going to do my best to tell you about this event, the wonderful people running it, and the incredible lineup of fantastic artists that will be there to play and rejoice at the beautiful Salmon Lake Park. Friends, if you have never been to Salmon Lake you owe it to yourself to see this place that time has forgotten. Floyd and Frannie Salmon have put the hearts and indeed their entire lives work into building the most joyous location in the State of Texas. Rested deep in the pines, Floyd gathered together probably fifty or more buildings from the countryside and built a cozy replica of a town from times long past. This is a family friendly RV park with a great stage area, lots of parking, cabins, tons of locations to jam, and a sense that you have walked into bluegrass heaven. What better place than this to have a Bluegrass Gospel Festival?

Let me tell you about the bands. In addition to being the recipients of the Bluegrass Gospel Song of the Year in 2007, **Cody Shuler & Pine Mountain Railroad** also won the 2006 IBMA Album of the Year and numerous other awards. Their song "Blood Bought My Freedom" is a thank you to the many soldiers, marines, and airmen that have died so we could all remain free. These are fine, fine musicians, with heart warming harmonies, and yet have a light-hearted stage presence.

My friend Dale Mitchel is a big fan of the **Marksmen Quartet** and recently told the story of getting to hear Mark Wheeler sing his new song "He's Still Setting My Place At The Table" for the first time ever in a small jam session with Larry Burnside and Dennis Clute at the Hard Times Hotel.

Other artists scheduled to play are **BamaBlu-Grace**, **The Batten Family**, **The Blake Brothers**, **Bowles Creek**, **The Villiage Singers**, **White Dove**, and **Shallow Creek**.



For the past 35 weeks Billboard Magazine has had **The Isaacs Naturally : An Almost a Cappella Collection** in its Top 10 Bluegrass Albums. Most of the time you will see some real odd groups listed under Billboard's bluegrass genre but with The Isaacs Billboard hit a home run. This album was released back in September 2009 and is a real joy to listen to. The tune that will touch the heart of anyone that has lost their mother is "Moma's Teaching Angels How to Sing" and just give a listen to the wonderful harmonies in "I Will Praise Him". Awesome!



Artist Profile: The Lost Pines

I'm sure folks will want to know how The Lost Pines got started. Tell us where everybody is from, how you met, and what attracted you to bluegrass music.

Talia Sekons: I moved to Austin in 2007 after recently learning to play the guitar. I had the crazy idea that I was going to be in a band. Soon a new neighbor introduced me to his "banjo-playing friend," **Christian Ward** from Asheville, North Carolina and we began sharing songs. Although I later found out that he had just picked up the banjo a few minutes earlier in an attempt to stand out amongst Austin's endless sea of guitar strumming singer-songwriters. Our voices blended really well over his catchy tunes with their old sounding Appalachian melodies, which I guess was enough to make us post an ad on Craigslist for a soloist. The ad just said something like "acoustic band looking for a soloist" and had fiddle or mandolin in mind.

*"I particularly like ReverbNation...
...people really do want to know when you are playing and if they don't know, they won't show!"
-Talia Sekons*

The Lost Pines were born on the evening that conservatory-trained, choir director and ridiculous guitar picker, **Marc Lionetti**, recently moved from San Francisco, to our dinky little "band practice". Apparently Marc liked the music enough to stick around that night but it was the endless supply of juice boxes that kept him coming back for more. Marc and I instantly hit it off over our love for Gillian Welch and David Rawlings. Marc's

blazing solos and his ability to harmonize over anything Christian and I were singing together really rounded out the sound.

Along the way we were blessed to stumble across some of Austin's finest pickers: **Shawn Dean**, fiddle (Twin Falls, ID, and plays with the *Asylum St Spankers*), **Brian Durkin**, upright bass (from Danvers, MA, plays with *Flatcar Rattlers*), **Jon Kempainen**, fiddle (from NC, plays with *Grass Onions*), and sometime member **Christian McAdams** mandolin, (NC).

Neither Christian Ward nor I were really into bluegrass when we met, but once the soloists, the songs and the harmonies fell into place, people kept calling us a bluegrass band, so we just kind of went with it. But since we weren't doing traditional bluegrass songs, but rather our own music, written mostly



(L to R) Jon, Marc, Christian W, Brian, Talia) - Photo by Bonnie Berry Photography

by Ward but with a few of my songs thrown in, we started calling it Austin Bluegrass. The more entrenched we became in this style the more interested in it we became. Having Shawn and (Christian) McAdam's with their vast knowledge of bluegrassology surely helped with that. In general, we try to focus on how to best showcase our strong original material, although we will break out with *Rocky Top* if you really want us to, especially at a wedding.....wait, are you sure you really want us to?

It seems like The Lost Pines use all the social media tools out there. You are on Facebook, MySpace, ReverbNation, SonicBids, and probably much more. What advice would you give other artists about how to effectively use social media tools?



Texas Pickin' Park
Fayetteville, Texas

Jams every 2nd Saturday

FREE e-mail Jam Alerts and monthly newsletter.
sign up at www.texaspickinpark.com

MEMBER, CTBA

They are a pain but really important, not to mention free. I particularly like **ReverbNation** because it links up with all the other sites and makes it really easy to send emails to our large email list. However, maintaining this stuff is practically a full time job, which is why I started a booking agency, so I could have time to be on the computer every day. But really, it's important to do a little bit everyday and don't let it build up to the point that it is overwhelming. It's important to keep updating your list because people really do want to know when you are playing and if they don't know, they won't show! Also, as much as the computer helps, nothing works as well as going out in the world and meeting bookers, venue owners and other musicians in person. I'm a huge proponent of networking. Every time I go out to see music or attend a gathering, I try to make at least one connection. For example, at Tom Ellis's BBQ the other day I chatted with you about doing



(L to R) Christian M, Christian W, Talia, Marc, Shawn, Brian) - Photo by Peter Guy

this interview. Therefore, I did my work for that day!

Everyone in the band looks like they are having fun on stage. Your "You Tube" videos show you really having fun on "Won't You Be My Baby" and "Die Someday". Audiences love those tunes. Are those original? Who does the writing in the band?

If it wasn't fun, we wouldn't do it. Almost all of us have day jobs. Marc and Christian Ward teach high school, Jon is a scientist and Brian works at Collings, so we appreciate the extra income we sometimes get, but really, we just do it because we love the music. We perform mostly original material. At this point about 75% of our set was written by Christian Ward and 25% by me. We even have one wonderful tune, "Maybalee" written by my fiancé, Tym Bales.

For Ward and me, this is our first experience ever being in a band and we just eat it up! Personally, I can't sing well unless I'm really "feelin' it" so I refuse to sing anything that doesn't resonate with me in some way. People respond to that.

Your CD "Middle of the Morning" was released back in 2008 and has some great material on it. I've heard that you have plans to record another CD pretty soon. What's up?

It's been a busy year for everyone but somehow we've gathered enough material for a new CD. We'd love to record as soon as we have the time.

We need to shop around for a great producer and hopefully



(L to R) Talia, Christian W, Marc, Brian) - Photo by Ted Branson @ KOOP Studios

we will record this fall. Know anybody? Our plan for this next album is to really showcase the great songwriting we've been doing by bringing in some special guest pickers and making something really spectacular that will be ready for a big national release next Spring and a tour next summer.



(L to R) Christian W, Talia, Marc) - Photo by Max Elliott

You've got some very special gigs coming up soon that we want to tell folks about, but before that, the most important gig seems to include a marriage or is it more than one?. Is that right? Who's getting married?

We've been busy playing a lot of wedding gigs this spring. Yes, this is a plug, please hire us for your wedding! We get to play a very special wedding on June 13. Marc is marrying Jen Lucas in Dripping Springs, TX. I'm also getting married to Tym Bales in Woodstock, NY on June 27, but we're not flying the band out for that one. As far as other fun gigs go: June 1 at Barton Springs pool and July 4th at Central Market North

OK, we always ask this question. Tell us about each person's favorite hobby.

I'm super jazzed about spending time with my dog, Bean, right now and becoming the goodest booker in Austin. (Her booking agency is goodbookin.com). Christian Ward likes gardening and his new songwriter group "the game". Jon likes "collecting hobbies" and sailing. It's the only antidote he knows for the music bug. Shawn is apparently into running the days. Brian enjoys changing his hair, drawing pretty pictures and building the coolest washtub bass in the world. And finally, Christian McAdams is proud to be a total bluegrass nerd and is hopefully working on moving back to Austin soon.



The City of Early has a Bluegrass Celebration
June 3, 4, & 5th.



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cparrack@porb.com Early, Texas

Artz is the place to go in Austin to have great food and hear great music. Check out the jams the 2nd & 4th Saturday, and every Sunday!

Meet a CTBA Member: Stacy Holt

Introduce yourself. Tell us your name, a little bit about yourself, what city you live in, and why you joined CTBA.

My name is Stacy Holt. I live in Austin, Texas with my beautiful wife and two great daughters. I have worked for IBM Austin for about 28 years now. I am originally from Dallas, Texas and moved to Austin after I graduated from Texas A&M. I joined CTBA after I was introduced to the CTBA beginner / intermediate jams. I wanted to support a great organization that provides outlets like the jams and all of the other things they do to promote Bluegrass music.

Do you play an instrument?

Played guitar since a youth. Started banjo around 3 years ago with Eddie Collins. Now picked up mandolin last fall.

What bluegrass artists do you like to listen to most?

Definitely Flatt & Scruggs (love the Carnegie Hall CD). Also, Krueger Brothers and Eddie Collins. Mostly old stuff.

What's your all time favorite bluegrass song?

"Little Cabin on the Hill"




Tony Trishka (l), Stacy Holt (r)



Cabin 10, Inc.
Curators of RiceGrass & the Rice Festival



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Something old... Something new

By Tom Duplissey

When bluegrass artists talk about songs on their CD you may hear them say they have "a few originals, a cover or two, and some traditionals". Did you ever wonder what a "cover" song is? A simple definition of a "cover" is when the artist is takes a "popular" song from another band or artist and arranges it to meet that person's style or genre. Below is a list of tunes loaded on the iPod recently. I've found these to be some interesting arrangements of some good "Top 40" songs. Enjoy!

Song	Artist	Album
1. Papa Genes Blues (The Monkees)	Rickie Simpkins	Dancin' on the Fingerboard
2. Mary Jane's Last Breakdown (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers)	Keller Williams & The Keels	Grass
3. Fields of Gold (Sting)	Modern Hicks	Tornado Alley
4. I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For (U2)	Dale Ann Bradley	East Kentucky Morning
5. Crazy Love (Poco)	Kati Penn & New Town	My Turn to Cry
6. Good Riddance - Time of Your Life (Green Day)	Glen Campbell	Meet Glen Campbell
7. Let my Love Open the Door (The Who)	The Grass Cats	Home to Carolina
8. Don't Cross the River (America)	Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver	The Original Band
9. Lonely Old Night (John Mellencamp)	Crucial Smith	Crucial Smith
10. Black Star (The Bends)	Gillian Welch	EP

Most of the traditional bluegrass songs we are most familiar with were actually "covered" by artists like Wiley & Zeke Morris, Wade Mainer, Charlie Poole, The Carter Family, and yes, even the Monroe Brothers from recordings or Gospel Bluegrass. Charlie Poole's "Don't Let Your Deal Go Down" was first recorded in 1925 and later "covered" by Flatt & Scruggs in 1957. "Little Maggie" was "covered" by Wade Mainer & Zeke Morris in 1948 but it was first recorded in 1928 by Grayson & Whitter. Of course if you were to ask Bill Monroe you might hear "the only bluegrass songs to play would be Monroe songs, because those are the only real bluegrass songs". - source Rural Roots of Bluegrass by Wayne Erbson

Overton, Texas, proudly presents the 22nd annual

Overton Bluegrass Music Festival



**June 11-12,
2010**

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Saturday, 12:30-11:30
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Overton, Texas, City Park

**Friday, \$15
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Marty Raybon
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Webb Band
Saturday



Gold
Heart
Friday & Saturday



Volume
Five
Friday & Saturday



Hickory Hill
Friday & Saturday



Bowles Creek
Friday & Saturday



Appointed
Friday & Saturday



Pick'N Grass
Saturday



Robert E. Lee Texas Swing Fiddlers
Saturday

www.overtonbluegrass.com

Ticket info: 903.895.4336 RV reservations: 903.834.7226 E-mail: overtonbgf@embarqmail.com

Calendar - Where to Listen to Bluegrass Music June, 2010

Festivals/Shows (courtesy Sabine Bluegrass - call to confirm)

- 02-05 Melody Ranch Bluegrass Festival - Tom Bean TX 903-546-6893
- 03-05 Texas Bluegrass Celebration - Brownwood TX 325-646-8531
- 05 1st Saturday Bluegrass Music Night - Longview TX 903-234-2110
- 05 Decker Prairie Bluegrass Show - Decker Prairie TX 281-744-7652
- 05 Pearl Bluegrass 1st Saturday Jam & Stage Show - Pearl TX 254-865-6013
- 06 The Siekers - Hill's Cafe - Austin -11:30am
- 10 Bluegrass Open Mic - New World Deli - Austin 6:30-8:30
- 10-12 Permian Basin Bluegrass Music June Jam - Big Spring TX 432-362-6644
- 11-12 Overton Bluegrass Music Festival - Overton TX 903-834-3171
- 12 Bluegrass Pickin' Place - Lone Star TX 903-656-2358
- 12 Texas Pickin' Park - Fayetteville TX 979-378-2753
- 13 Second Sunday Singin @ Six - Hallsville TX 903-660-2242
- 18 Rodeo City Music Hall Bluegrass Nights - Mesquite TX 972-285-9343
- 18 3rd Friday Bluegrass Show - Lillian TX 817-929-8391
- 19 Bay Area Bluegrass Assn Show - League City TX 713-249-2986
- 19 Forest Grove Music Show - Chandler TX 903-849-2273
- 19 Southwest Bluegrass Club Monthly Show - Irving TX 817-790-8722
- 19 Texas Acoustic Music Society Show - Paris TX 903-785-3958
- 19 The Siekers - ArtZ Rib House - Austin - 7:30pm
- 24 The Siekers - Leona Family Night - Leona, TX - 6:00pm
- 24-26 FREE State Bluegrass & Classic Country Festival - Canton TX 800-243-6502
- 25-26 Triple Creek RV Park Bluegrass Weekend - Woodville TX 409-283-3799
- 26 Jackson Hole Texas Bluegrass & Gospel Festival - Maypearl TX 972-435-2242
- 26 Jamming On The Square & Bluegrass Show - Timpson TX 936-254-3886
- 26 Mountain Creek Amphitheater Bluegrass Show & Jam - Robert Lee TX
- 26 Pickton Bluegrass Show - Pickton TX 903-866-0415
- 26 Quitman Bluegrass Music Show - Quitman TX 903-852-6588
- 26 Sacul Bluegrass Opry - Sacul TX 936-326-5198
- 26 Spring Creek Bluegrass Club Show - Bellville TX 979-865-5250
- 27 Eddie Collins & Friends - ArtZ Rib House - Austin 6:00-8:30

LISTEN TO BLUEGRASS ON THE RADIO

KOOP Radio, Austin, 91.7, Strictly Bluegrass Show 10:00AM every Sunday

KPFT Radio, Houston, 90.1, The Bluegrass Zone, 4:00PM every Sunday

KSYM Radio, San Antonio, 90.1, Hillbilly Hit Parade, Noon every Sunday

KEOS Radio, College Station, 89.1, High Lonesome, 7:00PM every Tuesday

Randall's Good Neighbor Program

The process to get this started is a bit of a pain, but it makes donating to CTBA, your local schools, or your favorite non-profit organizations very, very easy. Just go to the link below, print the form and fill it out, enter **CTBA's code 9735**, and take to your local Randall's store:
http://shop.safeway.com/corporate/randalls/gn_houston_austin.pdf

Hire a Bluegrass Band!!!

(Month & year of articles in Newsletter follow name)

Karen Abrahams

Babyhead Promotions
(512) 659-5256
www.karenabrahams.com

Austin Lounge Lizards

Mike Drudge, agent
(615) 262-6886
www.austinlizards.com

Back Up and Push

Ben Hodges
(512) 751-3086
bhodges@gmail.com

Better Late Than Never

Duane Calvin
(512) 835-0342

Blacktop Bend

George Rios
(512) 619-8536
blacktopbend@yahoo.com

Blazing Bows

Mary Hattersley
(512) 873-8925

Bluegrass Vatos

Danny Santos
(512) 218-4141
danny@dannysantosmusic.com

Brian Byrne and Borrowed Time

(512) 699-9251
jjs@jjshaffer.net

BuffaloGrass *(Jun'08)*

Don Inbody
(512) 295-6977
don@inbody.net

The Carper Family *(May'10)*

Jenn Miori
(281) 682-8174
carperfamilyband@gmail.com

Chasing Blue

Suzanne
(512) 963-7515
suzoleson@aol.com

Cooper's Uncle

(512) 736-2664
coopersuncle@hotmail.com

Eddie Collins *(Dec'07, Nov'09)*

(512) 836-8255
www.eddiecollins.biz
tuneman@austin.rr.com

Grass Onions Band *(Mar, Oct'08)*

Jon Ricketts
(512) 217-6437
jon_ricketts1@mac.com

The Grazmatics

L. Wayne Ross
(512) 303-2188

Howard Rains

(512) 577-0851

The Lost Pines *(Jun'10)*

Talia Sekons (512) 814-5143
thelostpines@gmail.com
www.lostpinesband.com

Manchaca All-Stars *(Nov'07, May'08)*

Ben Buchanan
(512) 282-2756
manchacaallstars@email.com

Out of the Blue

Jamie Stubblefield
(512) 295-5325
jamie5011@aol.com

Piney Grove Ramblers *(Jan, Apr'08)*

Wayne Brooks
(512) 699-8282
www.pgramblers.com

Randy's Rangers

Sigi Field
(512) 869-8076

Rod Moag and Texas Grass

Rod Moag
(512) 467-6825
rodmoag@texas.net

The Sieker Band

Rolf & Beate Sieker
(512) 733-2857
www.siekerband.com

Steelhead String Band

Sharon Sandomirsky
ssandomirsky@austin.rr.com
(512) 619-8705

Two High String Band *(May'10)*

Geoff Union
(512) 563-9821
Geoff@highstring.com

The Wimberley Bunch

Charlie & Sally Lewis
(830) 899-7511

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34th Annual

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Grapeland, TX

September 2, 3, 4, 5 - 2010

Where to go for a BLUEGRASS JAM!!!

(It is always a good idea to call to confirm)

AUSTIN

Bluegrass Beginner/Intermediate JAM (CTBA Sponsored)
1st. & 3rd Thu. 7-9 PM, (call for location)
Contact: Steve Mangold (512) 345-6155

Bluegrass Beginner/Intermediate JAM (CTBA Sponsored)
2nd & 4th Sat 4-6 PM; Slow Jam starts at 2:00PM ArtZ Rib House
Contact: Steve Mangold (512) 345-6155

Bluegrass Intermediate/Advanced JAM (CTBA Sponsored)
Sunday's 2-6PM, ArtZ Rib House, 2330 S. Lamar

Bluegrass All Levels Jam
2nd and 4th Monday 7-11PM Waterloo Ice House (38th and Medical)
Contact www.waterlooicehouse.com

Traditional Music All Levels JAM (AFTM Sponsored)
2nd Sunday 2-4 PM, ArtZ Rib House, 2330 S. Lamar

Contradance (AFTM Sponsored)
3rd Sat. 3501 Red River 7:30 to 11 pm, Cost: \$7
Contact: (512) 453-8936

BELLVILLE

Bluegrass All Levels JAM & SHOW (Spring Creek Club Sponsored)
Jan. thru Sept 4th Sat; 4pm JAM, 6:30 pm SHOW, Coushatta RV Ranch
Contact: (979) 865-5250 bluegrass221@ev1.net, RV's welcome

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION

Brazos Country Grass
Monday's 6-9PM, JJ. Cody's, 3610 S. College
Contact: www.brazoscountrgrass.com

FAYETTEVILLE

Bluegrass All Levels JAM (Texas Pickin' Park Sponsored)
2nd Sat, March—November, starts at 6 PM, on the Courthouse Square
Contact: info@texaspickinpark.com www.texaspickinpark.com

GEORGETOWN

Bluegrass Jam All Levels
every Thursday at Duke's BBQ Smokehouse, 6-8 PM,
Contact: 512-869-8076 or sigi@sigi.us (www.sigi.us/rr)

GARLAND

Bluegrass All Levels JAM
Saturday, March- Nov, 7:30PM between Main & State St at 6th,
Contact:

HARWOOD

Bluegrass/Swing/Country JAM & Stage Show (Pot Luck too!)
3rd Sat, 2-9 PM, 9 mi. E. of Luling, Hwy 90
Contact: Tony Conyers (512) 601-1510 or (512) 940-3731

HOUSTON

Bluegrass All Levels JAM (BABA Sponsored)
2nd Sat, 1-4 PM, April-November, Houston Railroad Museum,
Contact: (713) 319-8906 www.houstonrrmuseum.org

LEAGUE CITY

Bluegrass All Levels JAM & SHOW (BABA Sponsored)
3rd Sat: Jam 5 PM, Show 6:30 PM Jan- Nov.,
Contact: Rick Kirkland (President) (281) 488-2244

PEARL

JAM & SHOW,
1st Sat: Jam all day
Contact: Ronald Medart (254) 865-6013 www.pearlbluegrass.com

SAN ANTONIO

Bluegrass Beginner/Intermediate JAM
2nd Thursday 7-9 pm at 6418 Ridgehurst,
Contact: Clifton Bowren (210) 602-5544 cliftonfiddler5@aol.com

WIMBERLEY

Bluegrass All Levels Jam
Fri 8-12 PM, Lane's Country Café
Contact:

Every Thursday Manchaca Railroad Bar-B-Q Jam from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm on FM 1626 between Manchaca Rd. and IH-35. Beginners to professional pickers welcome.....
.....5 years and going strong...gospel, bluegrass and country.
Info. Call Dave 512 680-4433

1st Friday each mo., Hondo Hootenanny, starts at 11 AM- Hondo Community Center, 1014 18th st, Hondo, Tx Info 830 426 2831

1st Sat each mo, Field Creek Music - 6: PM -
field Creek is between Llano and Brady on Hwy 71, Info call Bill Tuckness 325 247 3223

2nd Tuesday - Each Month, All Gospel Jam 6: PM,
first Baptist Church - Medina, Tx, Call Linda Barton for info, 830 589 2486

Every Tuesday beginner friendly jam, Gradys Barbeque, San Pedro and Jackson Keller, San Antonio, 6 to 8 PM

2nd Friday each mo. Medina Jam session, at the Masonic Lodge, 6 PM, Medina, Tx, bring snacks,

2nd Saturday Each Month, Lone Grove musical, 8 miles east of Llano, 6PM, contact Jimbo Miller 325 247 1904

3rd. Saturday each mo, Harwood Community Center, Harwood, Tx 9 Mi east of Luling on Hwy 90

3rd. Friday each month, Jam Session, Senior Citizens Center, at Utopia, Tx. 7 PM, info, Skip Doerr 830 966 6362

4th Friday each mo, Silver Sage Corral, Bandera Tx. 6:30 PM info 830 796 4969 or 830 796 3969 no jam on good Friday

4th Saturday Each Mo. Jam Session at the Hart-History and Music Building, in Campwood, Tx, 1 PM

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CTBA's Volume 2

\$10.00

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<http://www.centraltexasbluegrass.org/merchandise.html>

Central Texas Bluegrass still have a few T-shirts remaining. They are 100% pre-shrunk cotton, high quality shirts with CTBA's logo in a blue design on the front. Currently only available in white. Sizes are S, M, L, XL, and XXL. Only \$8.00



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If you would like CTBA to review CD's or would like us to include promo material for artists performing in Texas, please send to our email at ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org or snail mail to the PO Box listed above

Please join CTBA at <http://www.centraltexasbluegrass.org/join.html>.

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

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THE CENTRAL TEXAS BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO PROMOTE BLUEGRASS MUSIC IN CENTRAL TEXAS.
Our members range from listeners and lovers of bluegrass music to world-class professional musicians who all have the same desire: to promote the music.

CTBA provides a link between clubs, restaurants, and other venues and Central Texas Bluegrass musicians.

CTBA sponsors jams, workshops, provides scholarships to needy musicians, donates to other non-profit organizations, supports radio stations that promote bluegrass music & musicians, and provide festival venues for our listeners and fans of bluegrass music to enjoy.

CTBA has several products to include T-shirts, hats, banners, CD's, and much more. Our main sales event, the CTBA Garage Sale, occurs generally after the July 4th weekend at ArtZ Rib House and includes a Band Scramble. CTBA wants your tax-exempt donations of instruments, CD's, DVD's, or other items we could resell during the Garage Sale. KEEP ON PICKIN'!