

Central

Texas Bluegrass

Copyright © 2012 by Central Texas Bluegrass Association

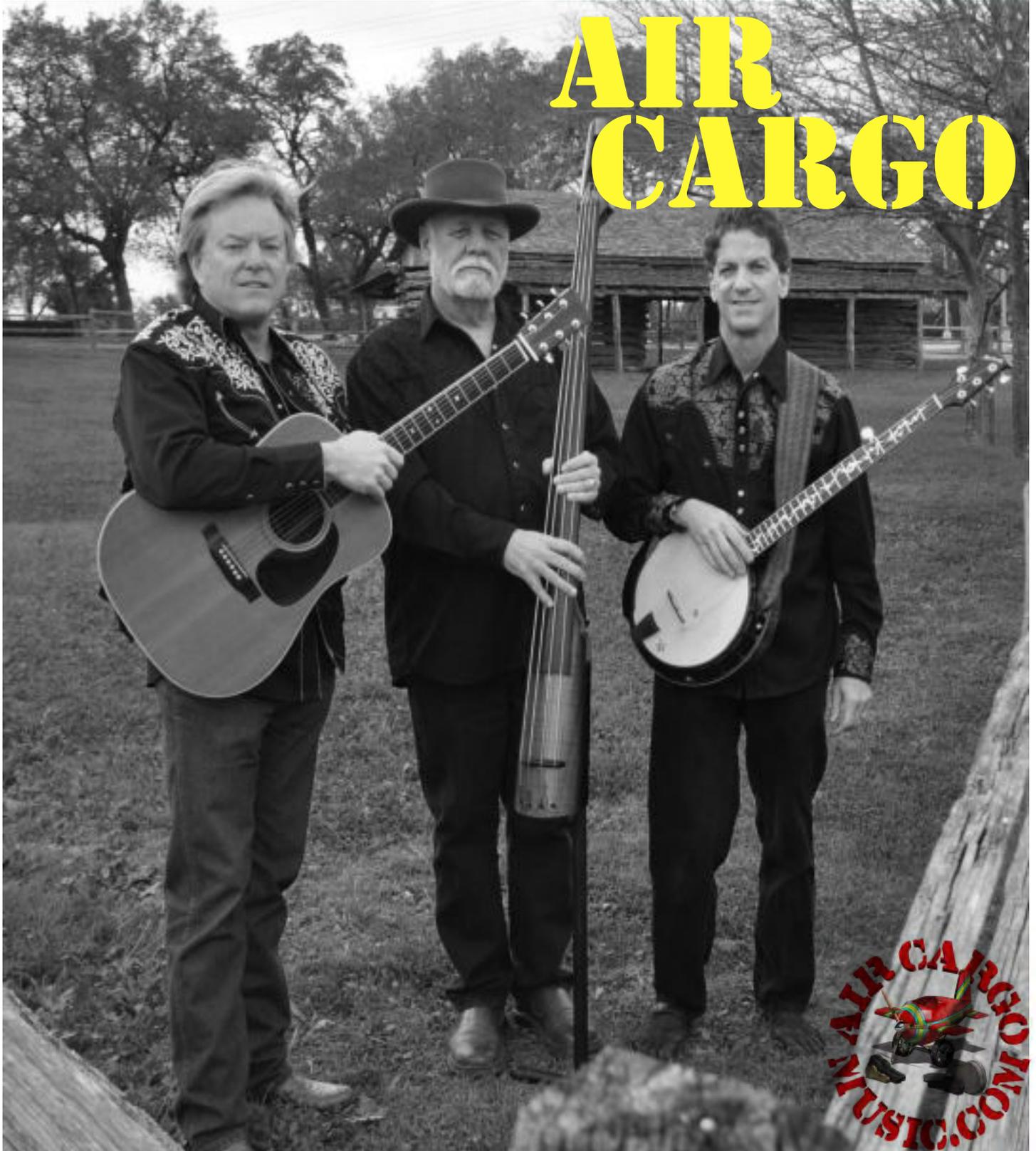
IBMA Member

Vol. 34 No. 10

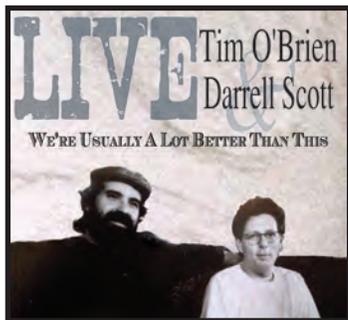
October 1, 2012



AIR CARGO



The Listening Post



O'Brien & Scott - Live

Anytime **Tim O'Brien and Darrell Scott** get together for a live performance even Sheldon Cooper from the Big Bang Theory will sit up and take notes. There is a definite chemistry (and physics) between Tim & Darrell that was picked up during these live performances at the Grey Eagle in Asheville, NC in 2005 & 2006. The performances were actually benefits for the Arthur Morgan School where both of them had children attending as students. This wasn't their first rodeo. Their first duo album "Real Time" was nominated for a Grammy in 2000.

There are several of their "live standards" on this CD, such as Scott's "Long Time Gone" and O'Brien's "Early Morning Rain" which he performed at RiceFest. And speaking of RiceFest Darrell Scott will perform this year. Tickets are sold out (again). People know a good thing. Pick up this CD. This is the real thing. Take notes.



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.

Grapeland Bluegrass Festival - was this the last year?

Was this the last performances on the Salmon Lake RV Park stages? Rumor has it that after thirty something years the festival will be no more...unless someone steps in to take it over. That view to the right is of the beautiful little lake that runs through the property. During the hot weather you'll see kids and adults cooling off or enjoying the sounds of the waterfall. There have been some tremendous performances on their stage.. Below, the band **Nu-Blu** performing this year and belting out some strong bluegrass.



Louisa Branscomb Brought to Austin by ASG



This past September 8th, the **Austin Songwriter's Group (ASG)** hosted noted bluegrass/Americana songwriter **Louisa Branscomb**. Louisa has had nearly 100 of her songs recorded by various artists that have appeared on the bluegrass charts. Perhaps her most well known tune is "Steel Rails," which was recorded by John Denver and was a huge hit for Alison Krauss.

Branscomb has developed a songwriter's workshop unlike those given by other songsmiths. A licensed psychologist, she helps attendees become more aware of feelings within themselves and has them try to state them in a unique musical way. During the evening, Louisa gave a concert presenting her original tunes. She was accompanied by Jeanette Williams, a superb singer and bassist and local talent, yours truly Eddie Collins (banjo, mandolin and guitar). The liner notes to Louisa's latest CD thanks bassist Missy Raines for taking a year of her time to learn these musically tricky progressions. I had two days to learn them. There were a few rough edges, but the audience enjoyed the stories behind the tunes and hearing them showcased by this talented writer. CTBA member Ken Brown also joined us on Dobro during the second set. For more about the Austin Songwriter's Group, go to www.austinsongwritersgroup.com

-Eddie Collins



Photos by Ken Brown



Rob Lifford

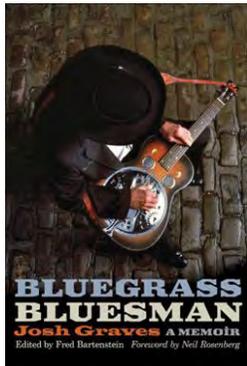
Even though I know for a fact that **Rob Lifford** has a great voice and plays a mean mandolin you won't hear his vocals or his mandolin on his new CD release **Helium Taxi**. For this Rob picks up the six string and surrounds himself with outstanding musicians such as **MilkDrive's Noah Jeffries, Dennis Ludiker, and Matt Meford**. He adds in some very tasteful banjo playing from **Trevor Smith (from Green Mountain Grass)** and you can sit back and enjoy some fanciful jazzgrass played inside out and outside in. All of these musicians have no fear taking each melodic development to new heights. My personal favorite arrangement is "Gray Matters". I love how it twists between a mournful memory and a happier notion like a private conversation at a funeral. There are several excellent arrangements on this CD, all written and arranged by Rob. Available for download. roblifford.bandcamp.com/album/helium-taxi



Picks, Happenings, and Releases



SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, December 9th, Annual Membership meeting with concert, jamming and prizes. Yes, Fall is a great time for bluegrass here in Texas, but what about Winter? Well, there will definitely be bluegrass happening in Austin on Sunday, December 9 starting around 3:00 p.m at Scholz's Bier Garten. The Central Texas Bluegrass Association is pleased to announce that, for the first time, this year's Annual Meeting will come to life with featured performances of LIVE bluegrass music. Plans are for this year's line-up to include, among others, a special performance by some of CTBA's past scholarship recipients! For those of you who might think there isn't much young talent in the pipeline to carry on the bluegrass tradition, plan to come and be amazed! In addition to their talent, they bring energy and enthusiasm to this music that we all love so much. We're also proud to have one of them currently serving on the CTBA board—Josh Upham. The winner(s) of an instrument drawing selected from the names of renewing and new members will also be announced during the concert. So please plan to join us on December 9th for a brief meeting (2:00 PM), followed by some awesome picking and grinning. Stay tuned. More details will be forthcoming.



Just want to make you aware of a book written by Fred Bartenstein. Fred has written a biography of "Uncle Josh" Graves the man credited with adapting the Earl Scruggs style to the Dobro resonator slide guitar. It was the dobro that really enhanced the Foggy Mountain Boys sound and set them apart from all others. Fred is a graduate of IBMA's Leadership Bluegrass program and has several writing, MC, DJ, and other bluegrass credits under his belt. www.fredbartenstein.com/book.html



The Fall Paluxy Valley Bluegrass Festival in Glen Rose is October 4-6 in Oakdale Park. The lineup includes **The Roys** (with the recent addition of **Matt Downing** on the banjo), **Larry Stephenson, Randy Waller & the Country Gentlemen, Little Roy & Lizzy, SaltGrass, Springstreet, West Bound Bluegrass, Shady Grove Ramblers and others**. Three day passes are only \$30.

Oakdale Park is also the location of the **Glen Rose Gospel Grass festival October 12-14**. This year's event will have **The Herrins, Grandpa's Neighbors, Full Quiver, The Lackey Family, and others**. For more information see www.gospelgrass.com



FREE!



Friday & Saturday October 19-20, 2012
Farmers Branch Historical Park



**Rhonda Vincent & The Rage • Blue Highway
Travelin' McCourys w/Peter Rowan • Gibson Brothers
Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper • Gold Heart
Kenny & Amanda Smith Band • The Toy Hearts
Alan Tompkins & All Star Band • Sgt. Pickers**



Two days of great music and beautiful flowers under the Texas sky!
Bring your blankets and lawn chairs.
Free Admission! No Ticket Required

Festival hours
Friday 5p - 10p
Saturday noon - 10p.

Farmers Branch Historical Park
2540 Farmers Branch Ln
Farmers Branch, Texas 75234

Only 15 minutes from D/FW Airport!

Discounted Festival Room Rates!

Check our website at:
BluegrassHeritage.org for more details about special deals on hotel rooms and dining.

This event is brought to you by the City of Farmers Branch, Texas and the Bluegrass Heritage Foundation.

BloominBluegrass.com
info@BloominBluegrass.com



Austin String Band Festival

The Little Festival That Can (Deliver Great Music)

The Austin music festival scene is crowded but here's one you ought to consider – the Austin String Band Festival (ASBF) October 19 - 21 at Camp Ben McCulloch, right across the road from the Salt Lick. Although this is its seventh year this festival is still small enough that everyone can get right up close to the musicians. And the musicians are worth a close listen. The lineup features Bluegrass, Cajun, old-time Appalachian and Americana delivered by the best local string bands and out of state headliners. This year the festival features:

Friday Dance 'Til You Drop Night

- 7:00 square dance w/ East Mt Serenaders
- 8:00 Lone Star Swing with Cindy Cashdollar
- 9:00 GumboJet
- 10:00 square dance w/Canotes

Saturday Stage Lineup

- 2:00 Sawmill Vagrants
- 3:00 Fundamentalist Reunion
- 4:00 Manuel "Cowboy" Donley
- 5:00 sq dance w/East Mt Serenaders
- 545-630 supper break (there will be a 5:45 miniset)
- 6:30 Rafe and Clelia Stefanini
- 7:30 Anna & Elizabeth (The Crankies)
- 8:30 Hem & Haw
- 9:30 The Canotes
- Around 10 bands for mini-sets.

Festival booking agent Jeanne DeFriese, who booked the music for Old Settlers when it was a small bluegrass festival, makes this comparison: "I have a freer hand booking for ASBF. Our audience is very open-minded and eclectic in their tastes; they seem quite delighted with our diverse selections on stage and in the mini-sets. We book old time and bluegrass acts but you might also hear Gospel, traditional Mexican, Cajun, or retro jazz - anything that hews to regional string band

Proud to Support CTBA!



City of
Leander

Megan Pumphrey,
PO Box 319
Leander, TX 78646

**INSTRUCTION FOR BANJO,
GUITAR AND MANDOLIN**
ONLINE AND PRIVATE LESSONS

Eddie Collins

www.eddiecollins.biz

512-873-7803

music. There are more spur of the moment jam sessions at ASBF - everywhere!" Huntsville fiddle maven Marynell Young says ASBF has the "most eclectic stage show East of Los Angeles and the best jam sessions West of North Carolina – finger pickin' good!"

Some of the featured bands are: the fantastic, funny, Canote Brothers. Be ready to double up with laughter when these identical twin musicians take the stage. With fiddle, banjo, ukuleles and genetically matched voices, Greg and Jere Canote bring back fun, vintage American music – including forgotten fiddle tunes, swing classics and quirky novelty songs. Cajun trio GumboJet with David Greely will make you kick up your heels with their authentic acoustic Louisiana sound. Anna & Elizabeth feature a cranky show. A "cranky" is a homemade wooden box with a hand crank that displays a scroll of illustrations. As an old mountain ballad is sung, the performer turns the crank, and the hand-stitched (or hand-drawn) scenes match the lyrics. These are just a few of the great acts you'll hear!

But the stage bands are not the whole story. Camp Ben's grounds are lovely, with plenty of big old shade trees, a gurgling creek and plenty of room for camping and jamming. Some of the best music is off-stage in sessions lasting till the wee hours. The admission price gets you access to a variety of workshops such as banjo, fiddle, singing and dancing. There is also a playground for the youngsters. Delicious local and organic food is available on site or you can go across the street and eat at the Salt Lick.

Admission fees are a reasonable \$40 for weekend general admission with discounts for partial weekends, students and Austin Friends of Traditional Music members. Youth 16 and under get in free!

The festival is hosted by Austin Friends of Traditional Music, a non-profit organization promoting traditional music and dance. To see a video with samples of last year's festival and find out more, go to www.aftm.us -Tim Wooten, AFTM



AUSTIN FRIENDS OF
**TRADITIONAL
MUSIC**

October 19-21, 2012

7TH ANNUAL AUSTIN STRING BAND FESTIVAL



**CONCERTS, CAMPING,
JAMMING, DANCING,
WORKSHOPS, GOOD EATS**

**The Canote Brothers
GumboJet**

**Anna & Elizabeth
Bayou Seco**

East Mountain Serenaders

**Hem and Haw
Sawmill Vagrants**

... and more!



**Camp Ben McCulloch, Driftwood, TX
for more info, check out: www.aftm.us**

Meet a CTBA Member: Jacob Roberts

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

My name is Jacob Roberts. I just recently moved here from Lubbock after graduating from Texas Tech. I live in Austin, where I work as a mechanical engineer. I started listening to bluegrass when I was about 13. I think the albums that got me hooked were Flatt & Scruggs Live at Carnegie Hall, Ralph Stanley - Hills of Home, and Jim Mills - Bound to Ride. I mostly grew up in the Houston area and went to a lot of the Bluegrass shows around there. I joined CTBA to help support and preserve Bluegrass music in the area. I've been to many of the CTBA jams and found that it's a great way to meet and learn from other pickers.

Do you play an instrument?

Yes, I play guitar and bass.

What bluegrass artists do you like to listen to most?

Recently, it's been Larry Sparks, Dwight McCall, and J.D. Crowe and the New South. There are so many though.

What's your all time favorite bluegrass song?

If I have to pick one, it's probably "The Old Home Town". It's got really good Bluegrass fiddle in it. I've heard it was Lester Flatt's favorite of the tunes he'd written.

Jacob is also on the ballot for the 2013 CTBA Board Member elections, as well as his brother Adam.



Visit Llano

www.promotellano.org

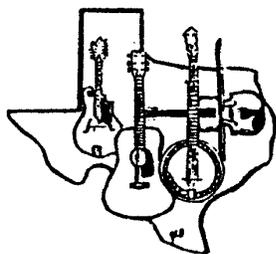
Ann Matlack
P.O. Box 711
Llano, TX 78643



Allen Hurt & The Mountain Showmen

Mountain Valley Records Inc.
P.O. Box 3074
Sherman, TX 75091

(512) 635-0498
(469) 236-4190



Spring Creek Bluegrass Club BLUEGRASS MUSIC WEEKEND October 25, 26, 27, 2012

At the beautiful **COUSHATTE Recreation Ranch • Bellville, Texas**
 Lots of jamming • Shade Trees and Good Campsites • RV Supplies
Good Food Vendors • Arts & Crafts • No Pets in Concert or Vending Area • Proper Dress Required
 Bring covered dish for **Hobo Stew-Wed • Rain or Shine Event • Door Prizes**
 Shuttle service provided from parking lot to stage area
 Not responsible for accidents or weather

Family Bluegrass Entertainment

Gary Waldrep Band -Albertville,Al (Fri-Sat)
The Bluegrass Brothers-Salem,Va (Fri-Sat)
Jeff Scroggins&Colorado-Denver,Co (Fri-Sat)
Bonham Brothers -Atoka, OK (Fri-Sat)
The Saltgrass Band-Lake Jackson, Tx (Fri-Sat)
Buffalo Nickle - Sugar Land, TX (T-F)
Houston Skyline Band -Houston, TX (T)
Pausitive Band - Goldthwaite, TX (T)
Sowell Family Pickers- Hempstead,TX (T)
Polk Brothers/Lone Man Mtn Boys-,Tx (T)

Sound by: **Mary Marshall** Emcee: **Buddy Brockett**
 Nashville, AR

ADMISSION

Per person
Advance - 3 Day - \$35.00
 When Received by Oct. 15
3 Day - At Gate - \$40.00

Thursday \$10.00
Friday \$15.00
Saturday \$20.00
 (Tax included)
 Children Under 14 FREE

NO ADMISSION Without Ticket

MUSIC STARTS

Thur. 6:00 pm • Fri. 1:00 PM • Sat. 1:00 pm
 Open Stage 10:00am Saturday

OVER NIGHT CAMPING

Most w/Water/Elect/Sewer
\$20. - 30 amp / 50 amp
NO Reservations
 \$6. Rough Camping
 Camping fees collected at the gate only.

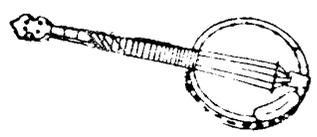
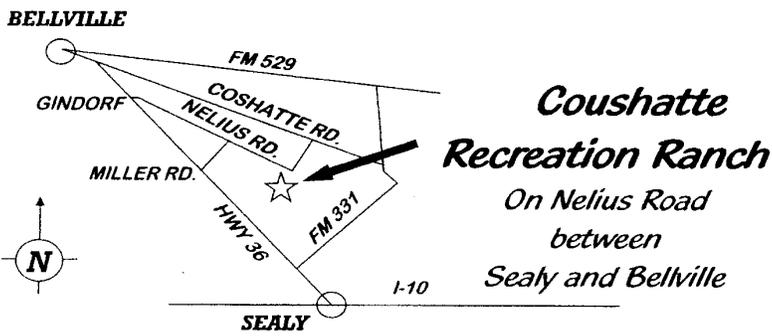
LODGING IN AREA

Holiday Inn Exp - Sealy (979) 877-0700
American Best Value-Sealy(979) 885-3707
Super 8 - Sealy (979) 885-2121
Countryside Inn - Sealy (979) 885-7407
Budget Inn - Bellville (979) 865-9121

FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION

Spring Creek Bluegrass Club
 % Buddy or Carolyn Brockett
 PO Box 1294 - Bellville, TX 77418
(979) 865-5250 /979 877-9526
Coushatte Ranch: (979) 885-8909

Bring Your
 LAWN CHAIRS



e-mail: bluegrass221@peoplepc.com
www.springcreekbluegrass.com

Absolutely NO Alcoholic Beverages Allowed • Violators Will be Forced to Leave • NO Refunds

How About Some FREE Bluegrass Music???

You heard that right! **FREE** bluegrass music and chili cook-off weekend kicks off in the Farmers Branch Texas Historical Park - come be a part of the fun!

The music on stage begins at **5pm on Friday night, Oct. 19**, and will last until 10pm. We will light up the stage again at noon on **Saturday, Oct. 20** and keep it going until 10pm. The chili cook-off competition starts early Saturday morning, and the winners will be announced from stage on Saturday afternoon. The schedule of entertainment and events is posted online at BloominBluegrass.com. There's plenty of free parking very close to the park, and the popular hayride shuttles will be running as always!



Remember that the festival is **free** with no tickets required! A chili tasting cup costs only \$3 - and you can sample chili until it runs out! The City will contribute 100% of the chili cup proceeds to the **Bluegrass Heritage Foundation's Play It Forward! Instrument Lending Program** and the **Friends of the Farmers Branch Historical Park** - so ALL chili cup money will support great causes! Gates open at 10:30am on Saturday, and the chili will be ready for tasting by 11:00am. Come hungry!



If you love to shop, you are going to have a great time! Bloomin' Bluegrass 2012 will feature several new vendors and an arts & crafts plaza. If you'd like to offer your arts & crafts items for sale, we have room for you. Vendor spaces are still available. And the Foundation will have great new products - including baseball-style t-shirts, caps, and a limited number of original Hatch Show Print posters designed just for our festival!



**FREE
MUSIC!**

*4th Saturday's
Coushatta RV Ranch
(January thru September)*

Bellville, Texas
Buddy & Carolyn Brockett
(979) 865-5250

e-mail: bluegrass221@peoplepc.com
website: www.springcreekbluegrass.com

www.aftm.us



AFTMTexas@gmail.com



Our host hotel is the Night Hotel by **Wyndham** (formerly Holiday Inn Select). The hotel is offering a festival rate of \$74/night which includes free breakfast and shuttle. **You must CALL 972-243-3363 to make reservations - the host hotel is nearly sold out.** No online reservations.

You don't have to bring a lawn chair! Chair rentals will be available from the Friends of the Historical Park for only \$2/ day. Rent from the Friends and support the Park!

Our scheduled musical guests for 2012 include **Rhonda Vincent & The Rage, the Travelin' McCourys with Peter Rowan, Blue Highway, the Gibson Brothers, Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper, Kenny & Amanda Smith Band, the Toy Hearts, Gold Heart, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Bluegrass Band, Alan Tompkins, and more.**

More details are available on the festival page of the Foundation website. Get ready for more great bluegrass music fun in the Farmers Branch Historical Park!



**OLD SETTLER'S
MUSIC FESTIVAL**
EST. 1987
WWW.OLDSETTLERSMUSICFEST.ORG
PO BOX 151947, AUSTIN, TX 78715

**Fiddler's Green
Music Shop**

Clay Levit, Owner
1809 W. 35th Street Austin, TX 78703
(512) 452-3900 fax (512) 452-3901
email Fiddlersgreen@Mac.com
WWW.Fiddlersgreenmusicshop.com

Pat n Eddie's

Banners
Bears &
Quilts etc.

Zihlman Enterprises
(512) 837-4371
email
patneddiez@hotmail.com

Website: patneddiez.com
**We do
Embroidery!**

Cabin10, Inc.
The Rice Festival
& RiceGrass

Supporting Higher Education in the Arts
(830) 739.6986 www.cabin10.com

TOP OF THE HILL COUNTRY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20



JASON BOLAND & THE STRAGGLERS



SIX MARKET BLVD

TOMMY ALVERSON

CLASSIE BALLOU

THE MOONLITES

RUBY JANE

LOST PINES BLUEGRASS

MIKE BLAKELY

Alamosa Wine Cellars

Brennan Vineyards

Fiesta Winery

Perissos Vineyards

Pillar Bluff Vineyards

Pontotoc Vineyard

Sandstone Cellars

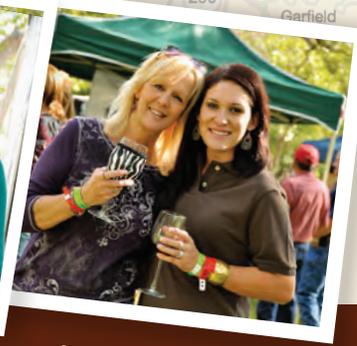
Spicewood Vineyards

Texas Legato Winery

Wedding Oak Winery

William Chris Vineyards

Pecan Capital of the World
San Saba County Chamber of Commerce



10am ~ 11pm
RISIEN PARK
SAN SABA, TX

www.pecanjam.com

Artist Profile: Air Cargo

When Ray Cargo and I got a chance to play together at a wedding gig over in Comfort, TX in September I figured I could give him a ride and as an extra bonus I could interview him on the way up there. We talked a lot about his band, Air Cargo. Oh. I cut out the



parts where we pointed at places we had played along the way. It was a nice drive with lots of laughing along the way. We had a good gig and I learned a few things about my old friend during this interview. I hope you enjoy it as much as I enjoyed doing it. My questions are in bold italics. -Tom Duplissey

You're originally from Amarillo?

Yes, for 29 years.

Your Dad played country and you played together, isn't that right?

When my Dad first started out in music, he was doing Elvis things. When he got drafted and went into the Army he had a buddy that had a D18 Martin and played bluegrass. That's when he became aware of that kind of music. Dad bought me a Danelectro bass guitar at age eight. He showed me the chords to a Buck Owens tune and away we went. We played country music. When I graduated from high school I wanted to do other things and Dad could see he was losing his picking buddy. That's when he joined the bluegrass world. Then I got lonesome for picking with him and I joined the bluegrass world too.

Y'all went to a lot of festivals up in Oklahoma didn't you?

Yes, we went over there many times. But the best festival was the Hugo festival. It was the place to be. In seventy-four there was twenty-two thousand people there. We jammed till day break for five days in a row. Then we had our own festival for about 10 years.

What organization was that?

I was on the Board for the Pan Handle Bluegrass and Old Tyme Music Association. I was the public relations guy.

Do they still exist?

Yes they do and I'm still a member. It was pretty cool last summer when I went to Mobeetie to play with Max Zimmet it had been 30 years since I had played on that stage...almost 30 years to the day. And it's still there just like me and Dad built it...same color and everything...the only difference is all the trees that we planted around it had grown up...which made it really nice (laughter). Back then it was hotter than hell because it was in the sun (laughter). That was a good thing to get a chance to do again. But back then when I got laid off



from my career job I decided I had to go somewhere else.

You said something to me once about you and your Dad going down to South Plains College and...

I didn't go with him down there but he went down there a lot. That was after I moved down here to Austin. When I would go back up there for the jamborees that's when Alan (Munde) would come up to some of those functions to play with us. Alan knew both of my parents very well.

What year did you get to Austin?

I moved here in 1988. It was Super Bowl Sunday. I came down here looking for work but the other thing was the music culture that this place had developed.

Were there any other musicians that you played with up there that came down this way?

Not really. When I first got to Austin I started out by seeing the bluegrass postings in the paper and the Chronicle. That's when I first went down to...uh...

Captain Tom's?

Yes. That's when I met Dave (Seeman) and all those guys. I met five banjo players the first day I went down there.

So Dave, probably Lyndal Cannon, maybe Doc (Wayne Ross), who else?

There were a couple of guys that I met that I haven't seen since. They weren't regulars I guess. The two guys I was hanging out with were Dave Seeman and Lyle Gudrith (sic) were both banjo players so I got an inside seat to the banjo circle. Lyle was involved with CTBA quite a bit. In fact he talked me into doing some covers for the newsletter back when they had that Zilker Park hillside theater shows. That was when I first got here.

So did you start playing with those guys then?

I went to the jams on occasion but in the 90's I hung out at Lakes Austin and Travis on my boat. I had a girlfriend that liked the water so we went all the time. I'm glad I did that because I got that out of the way and now I can play music.

Yes, my diversion was coaching Jesse in Little League and I laid down my guitar for a while. You played with some bands after the 90's?

I guess what brought me into the performing sector here in Austin is when the Siekers asked me to play with them. When I started playing with them everybody started realizing who I was and that led to bigger and better things.

Yes, that you could play in key, keep time and all that good stuff.

Well, I don't know about that (laughter). I'm not really as good as people think I am (laughter).

You got us all snookered. Isn't that what music is all about...a little bit of magic, a little luck, and a little skill.

Exactly. I like it when you start out on a song and start singing and chill bumps start blowing up on your arms and legs...that's when you know it's right.

You've written several songs yourself that are really good. You play several with your current band Air Cargo.

Oh yea. I think we play three or four originals of mine. I have another five or six lined up for the guys to learn. We're probably going to take those and several of Kevin's (Willette) and take the percentage of originals in our show a little higher for RiceGrass next year.

Kevin has put out at least three CDs of originals and covers.

Yes, he's working on another one too that will be an instrumental CD.

Have you thought about putting your stuff onto a platter?

Of course, but with the internet, what's the use? (laughter). We talked about making a CD but



then we just thought we'd put it on the internet and just let everybody have it for free. That way we don't have to carry around CDs, divide up the money, or worry about copywriting, taxes, and selling things.

Let's talk about some other bands you have been in. You played with the Siekers in what year?

2003 and 2004. I played with them for about a year and a half. Alex (Rueb) was also in that band with Rolf & Beate. After that I was sitting in quite a bit with The Grassy Knoll Boys because their bass player was kind of busy doing multiple projects so there were times he had to miss so they had to have someone they

could call on. Alex was in that band too. David Hamburger. I enjoyed playing with those guys a lot. That was really fun. There again I played with Alex some more. About the same time I started playing with the Siekers I got together with Dave Seeman and Mike Landscoot and we started the band 512. We haven't played recently but I would if he would call (laughter). Now that Steven (Crow) has moved into town I'm not needed quite as much as I was in the past.

When did you join The Grass Onions?

I don't know. Was it 2006? I guess. I had become a jam person at that point. You couldn't miss me at Artz every Sunday for a couple of years there. That's when you invited me to come play with the Onions and I said, "Sure! Sign me up!"

That was a great run. All those guys are great musicians. So much fun.

Yes, a lot of fun. I learned a lot from that experience. I also had people ask me where I found all the songs we played and I would just tell them that I listen to different genre of music than most people do and that's where they come from. My friends turn me on to them, others I just stumble upon.

The greatest honor as a songwriter is for someone else to pick up and play your material. It's the ultimate compliment. At least that's what I'm told (laughter).

I enjoy singing songs that my friends wrote. I don't know much about the music business. I just decided a long time ago that I want to have as much fun as I can with this as a hobby and that's about all I'm trying to get accomplished.

When did the idea of "Air Cargo" come to you?

After you left the Grass Onions Randy (Collier) started playing with us then the two Jon's (Jon Kempainen and Jon Ricketts) decided they wanted to go in different directions so those of us that were left over became Air Cargo which was me, Randy and Kevin. I didn't really try to start the band just to be my band but it ended up that way because that's what they wanted. When we first started playing Randy (Kirchhoff) down at Threadgill's was booking and he was pressing me for a name. We had talked about it but we had never decided on anything so I just told him Air Cargo, mainly because I already had a marketing scheme for that name so.... So we used that for the first gig and later I asked the guys what name they wanted to use and they said to stick with it. So, after 20 years I've finally gotten to the point where I wanted to be. I play with some great musicians and we can

create that sound over and over again. Now we have a couple of festivals that are inviting us to play. That's where I was trying to get to. I wanted to get a little regional respect and to get to play at some of these venues without having to pay at the gate! (laughter)

You've created a very unique brand too. How did you come up with the Air Cargo logo?

When I was living in Amarillo in the mid-80's, when my bluegrass group split up, and I had a great desire to play. I had gotten laid off from my job so I was trying to generate income so I put together the same sort of thing that Tinbuk 3 had. They used a plain jam box to record all their background music and they performed with it. So I did the same thing but I didn't use a jam box. I went ahead and used my PA setup. I bought a four-track cassette recorder and created all the backups, all the harmonies, the bass work, and then I would sing live with it and play lead guitar with it. One of my longtime friends came to see me and he said "you've got an air band going here". (laughter) So after we thought of that for a few seconds, that's when Air Cargo came to mind. So I had an air band and my name is Ray Cargo so we just called it Air Cargo. Now Randy and Kevin have replaced the "Air" (laughing)...like Randy says that his doctor told him, "is that E-R-R Cargo?" (laughing) Err Cargo. We're having a lot of fun with it. There are a lot of things we can do with that symbol of a plane. I've got a ton of ideas of things that can be done with that thing. How to create situations with it....

Well, anytime you can create a name and then come up with a "brand"...I guess that's what I was asking. How did you develop the brand? What tools did you use to create it?

I first did it with pencil and marks-a-lot. Are you talking about the new one?

Yes, the one on your web site and business cards.

I did the new one on my CAD system. It's a 3D model. I can get a lot of different images from that. There's a rendering package included in it that can make it look real. I mean real!

People waving out the window and everything huh?

If you want that (laughing), but I like one that I have now because its outlined in black and it looks more like a cartoon. So I want to keep it that way.

The Rolling Stones have their "tongue".

That's one of the greatest band symbols in the world.

Instantly recognizable. There's lot to be said in the music business about branding and the development of your brand. What you have is an easily recognizable symbol for the band.

Thank you very much. Being an artist more than being a musician, well, I just like doing stuff like that. That's my thing.

Did you always do a lot of drawings and painting?

Yes I did. When I went to college I was studying to become a commercial artist. That's the direction I was going. Fate led me to a wife and family so I didn't get to finish school. So, I went back to work relying on my trade of being a machinist. But I did artwork all the time up until the last 10 years. I haven't done much in the last 10 years. Prior to that, I was always doing something. When I was a teenager, right before I started driving, to make money to fix up my car, I painted signs. My Dad would give me a ride over there with all my paints and I would do some sign work and then he would come get me.

That's a lost art now isn't it?

Totally. It doesn't exist anymore. Well, I'm sure it does but not like before.

That's so sad too because there were so many great signpainters back then. My wife's uncle was a signpainter. He made a living doing it for a while.



What inspired me as a child, in grade school, there was a fellow that lived down the street, he was a widower and that's what he did. He painted signs for Furr's Supermarket. I would go down there and watch him. He'd be painting stuff and I'd be watching and that inspired me to do that.

So that's where the inspiration came from. Cool. Where did you go to college?

I went to Amarillo Jr College for two years and I went one year to West Texas State University, south of Amarillo about 20 miles. It's now an extension of A&M. They were the Buffalos. They had a marble statue of a buffalo out in front of the stadium that was white. The opposing teams would always come up and paint that thing their colors and ticked everybody off (laughing), they had to sand-blast it again.

When did you and Carla meet?

Me and Carla have known each other most of our lives. We didn't date in school but she always sat close to me, I guess because of our last names were so close. We became friends. After school she got married and moved to Colorado. I went to all my class reunions, we had them at five year increments for a long time, living there in Amarillo I always went to them. She would come to some of them and we would get to visit. She was happily married. One day she called me out of the blue and said, "What are you doing?" and I said, "Nothing". I invited her to come over to see me and she never left (laughter).

She's a neat lady. How long have y'all been together?

10 years.

Very cool.

Yes it is.

You are playing an electric bass. What is the make and model?

It's made by Ned Steinberger. The model is Wav 4. It's the Chinese version instead of the Czech Republic version. They are about \$2,000. The one I wanted cost \$3,700.

You still have an old Kay bass. You play mostly on the Steinberger?

I do. And yes, I still have my acoustic. I amplify both of them. Because of the amplification they both sound pretty close to the same. You would think that the acoustic would be different but when you run it through a pickup it sounds electric...sort of. I like playing the Steinberger because the old acoustic wore out my hands, my wrist, and after playing it for 30 years it was just getting too hard on me. When I would get done with a festival or something I would be whooped.

A lot of electric basses have a longer sustain but yours doesn't seem to have that problem. How do you get that sound?

Yes I know that too and I know that's not the sound you want in the bluegrass world and I agree. I don't like the electric sustain either. So I learned how to mute it by the way I play it.

Magic?



Yep, back to the fooling thing again (laughing). Actually, I play different than most players do. Most bass players pluck the strings with their index finger and their middle finger. I pull the string with my first three fingers, minus the pinky. The way I pull the string is a softer, more mellow, tone. I've enjoyed taking that thing to festivals, parties, and jam sessions. It's usually a pretty good conversation piece (laughing).

You play it well too. What advice do you give to people that are just starting to play bass?

Well, I don't consider myself to be a teacher. I haven't done it very much. What helped me get started was that I just learned music one song at a time. My Dad did that for me. He taught me how to play one song, showed me where the notes were, and we played that one song until I had it down and could remember it. Then we would work up a second song. I generally tell people the same thing. Take a song that you like, that's good to you, that you feel good about, and learn to play that song from start to finish without stopping or starting over. Once you've got that one song down, then you can work up another song. Then just keep going. As the years go by you end up with a pretty good size repertoire.

One of the things I remember you saying a long time ago was that you would make a CD of the songs you were trying to learn and pop them in your player on the way to work or to the store. I recall you saying once that you would create a "top five" tunes that you were learning. I've taken that to heart and move songs into my "Top Five Learning" playlist in iTunes. Do you still keep a top five?

Yes I tend to concentrate on a few at a time. That's how I rehearse. I record the sound files on CD and listen to it constantly until it's time to perform. That gets the melodies in my head...and the harmonies...and bass licks. Write a chart and away we go.

So what do you see in your crystal ball except turning it over and seeing "NO"?

(Laughing) Yes, don't do it! I don't have specific goals other than trying to get as much enjoyment out of it as I can.

It sounds like you're doing just that.

Yes we are. I'm having a wonderful time playing with Randy and Kevin. It's really nice to go to a venue and you are going to perform and you know how it's going to come out. I have a lot of respect for spontaneity, don't get me wrong, but that's where the band comes in. A band gives you that "repeatability". I went so many years jamming with so many people that it was almost like a mosh pit. You never know how it's going to come out and most of the time you're disappointed (laughing). That's what I like about being in a band.

I'm glad to see Randy performing again. He was in the band Red Eye with Kevin and that was the last time a lot of people got to hear him. It's good to see him in a band because he is so good and so talented.

He is. The guys on both sides of me are two of Austin's finest. There's a lot of fine people in Austin and they are two of them (laughing).

Well said Yogi. Hey, thanks for doing this Ray.

Thank you Tommy.

Folks, you can go hear Air Cargo at Threadgill's Old Number One on North Lamar and Mesa Ranch. I can't believe that I completely forgot to ask Ray about his upcoming gigs with the Toy Hearts from England. Ray will also be performing with the Toy Hearts at the Blooming Bluegrass Festival in Farmer's Branch this month and has about seven other gigs with them. Look for the Toy Hearts Austin dates. You can find Air Cargo's schedule along with the dates Ray will play with the Toy Hearts at <http://aircargomusic.com/> - Tom Duplissey



Listing of Newsletter “Artist Profiles”, “Meet A Member”, & “Scholarship Recipients”

2010

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

Meet a Member

Thomas Chapmond

Stacy Holt

Barbara & David Brown

Eddie & Pat Zihlman

Ray Cargo

Al James

Tracy Sloan

Rixi Rosenberg

Artist Profile

Danny Barnes

Dan Huckabee

The Carper Family

The Lost Pines

Jeff Robertson

Gerald Jones

Chasing Blue

Jim Hurst

The Upham Family

Chris Hirsch

2011

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

Keith Davis

Gloria Brashaw

Jeff White

Bruce Mansbridge & Elaine Kant

Jerry & Carol Rabun

Doug & Sheryl Sultenfuss

Bryce Koslan

Chuck Middleton

Alan Corlew

Tom Duplissey

Jay Blincoe

The Schuttger Family

David Hamburger

Billy Bright

MilkDrive

Sierra Hull

Tom Ellis

Dennis McDaniel

Rolf & Beate Sieker

Doc Hamilton

Steve Smith

Phil Elliott

James Shelton

Eddie Collins

2012

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

Mike Moore

Duane Calvin

Bob Bourgeois

Mike Stroup

Coleman Stephens

George Rios

Mary Conn

Jim Shaffer

Stephen Mangold

Jacob Roberts

The Lost Pines

Piney Grove Ramblers

Karen Abrahams

Christy & The Plowboys

Earl Scruggs Memorial

In Memory of Doug Dillard

Elliott & Janice Rogers

Austin Steamers

Geoff Union

Air Cargo

Scholarship Recipients 2004 - Finn Lynch, **2005** - Christopher Quinters, **2006** - Amy Bell, **2007** - Riley Mathews, Jill Corley, Tyler Colley and Erika Richardson, **2009** - Bethany Rankin and Brett Hawthorne, **2010** - Adam Greer, John Peyton “JP” Shafer, and Devin Paynkewicz, **2011** - Josh, Aaron and Micah Upham & Susannah Armstrong, **2012** - Mandy Greer, Sam Armstrong

CTBA Bluegrass Bands

The 145s

David Diers

www.the145smusic.com

512-814-5145

512

Dave Seeman

(davidseeman7@gmail.com)

(512) 557-2939

Air Cargo

Ray Cargo

raybo@raylcargo.com

Alan Munde Gazette

Bill Honker

(214) 693-1620

bhonker@gmail.com

Allen Hurt & The Mountain Showmen

Allen Hurt (Sherman, TX)

(469) 236-4190

www.allenhurt.com

Austin Steamers

Joe Sundell

(501)416-4640

www.theaustinsteamers.com

Bee Creek Boys

Jim Umbarger

(512) 922-5786

info@beecreekboys.com

Better Late Than Never

Duane Calvin

(512) 835-0342

Blacktop Bend

George Rios

(512) 619-8536

blacktopbend@yahoo.com

Blue Creek String Band

Thomas Chapmond

tchapmond@gmail.com

(512) 791-3411

Blue Skyz Band

Mike Lester

(210) 913-9597

www.blueskyzband.com

Bluebonnet Pickers

Brooks Blake

(830) 798-1087

BuffaloGrass

Don Inbody

(512) 295-6977

don@inbody.net

Carper Family Band

Jenn Miori

carperfamilyband@gmail.com

Chasing Blue

(512) 963-7515

suzoleson@aol.com

Christy & the Plowboys

Christy Foster

(512) 452-6071

christyfoster@earthlink.net

David & Barbara Brown

361-985-9902 (Corpus Christi)

[ddbrown@grandecom.net](mailto:ddebrown@grandecom.net)

Dueling Hearts

Wil Wilson

duelinghearts@att.net

Eddie Collins

(512) 873-7803

www.eddiecollins.biz

tuneman@austin.rr.com

Flatlander Folk

Jay Littleton

(512) 850-4362

music@flatlanderfolk.com

Four Fights Per Pint

Diana & Dan Ost

512-848-1634

bluegrassman@usa.com

Grazmatics

Wayne Ross
512-330-2188
lwayneross@gmail.com

Hem & Haw

Ben Hodges & Jenn Miori
hemandhawmusic@gmail.com

Karen Abrahams

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

The Lost Pines

Talia Bryce (512) 814-5134
thelostpines@gmail.com
www.lostpinesband.com

Manchaca All-Stars

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

Out of the Blue

Jamie Stubblefield
(512) 923-4288
jamie5011@aol.com

Piney Grove Ramblers

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

Ragged Union

Geoff Union
(512) 563-9821
gunion@austin.rr.com

Randy's Rangers

Sigi Field (512) 869-8076
www.jrfnet.net/rr
sigi@sigi.us

Robertson County Line

Jeff Robertson
(512) 629-5742
jaydubya7@yahoo.com

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

Shawn Spiars

(512) 627-3921
www.banjohangout.org/my/sspiars
sspiars@gmail.com

String Beans

Mike Montgomery
mikemon@astro.as.utexas.edu

Joe Sundell & the Show & Tellers

Rebecca Patek
262-617-4152
ww.joesundellandtheshowandtellers.com/

Third Rail

Susannah Armstrong
936 870 7819
Thirddrailbluegrass@gmail.com

Steelhead String Band

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

Upham Family Band

Tracie Upham
uphambluegrass@gmail.com

The Wimberley Bunch

Marilyn Lumia
(512) 557-2112
gus@vownet.net

Wires and Wood

David Dyer
(210) 680-1889
daviddyer@sattx.rr.com

Woodstreet Bloodhounds

Robert Becker (Oak Park, IL)
708-714-7206
robertbecker1755@sbcglobal.net

BLUEGRASS JAMS!!!

AUSTIN

Bluegrass Beginner/Intermediate JAM (CTBA Sponsored)
3418 North Lamar; 2nd & 4th Saturdays; slow jam, 2pm to 4pm; intermediate jam 4pm to 6 pm.

Also 1st & 3rd Thursdays 7pm at Bruce Mansbridge
Call Steve Mangold (512) 345-6155 for info on all Austin jams
Scholtz's Garden every Sunday afternoon until ?

BELLVILLE

Jam & Show (Spring Creek Club Sponsored)
Jan. thru Sept 4th Sat; 4pm JAM, 6:30 pm SHOW, Coushatta RV
Ranch
(979) 865-5250 bluegrass221@peoplepc.com www.springcreekbluegrass.com

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION

Monday's 6-9PM, JJ. Cody's, 3610 S. College
www.brazoscountrgrass.com

FAYETTEVILLE

2nd Sat, April—November, starts at 6 PM, on the Courthouse Square
info@texaspickinpark.com www.texaspickinpark.com

FIELD CREEK

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

GEORGETOWN

every Thursday at Duke's BBQ, 5:30 to 7:30pm,
512-869-8076 or sigi@sigi.us (www.jrfnet.net/rr)

GARLAND

Saturday, March- Nov, 7:30PM between Main & State St at 6th,

GLEN ROSE

every 3rd Sat. at Oakdale Park in Glen Rose

HARWOOD

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

HONDO

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

LEAGUE CITY

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

LLANO

Bluegrass All Levels JAM 4th Sat (except Nov. & Dec.):

5:30 PM The Badu House

Bluegrass Beginner/Intermediate 1st & 3rd Tue.

7:00 PM First Presbyterian Church

Contact: Jeff White (325) 248-4114

MANCHACA

Manchaca Railroad Bar-B-Q, FM 1626, Every Thursday 6:30-9:00PM

Contact: Dave (512) 680-4433

MEDINA

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

PEARL

JAM & SHOW,

1st Sat: Jam all day

Contact: Ronald Medart (254) 865-6013 www.pearlbluegrass.com

ROUND ROCK

Danny Ray's Music, 12 Chisholm Trail, RR, Third Saturday 2:00 PM

SAN ANTONIO

1st, 3rd, usually 5th Tuesday. 6:30 - 8:30, Grady's BBQ on Nakoma @ 281. Contact: Sheryl - ssultenfuss(at)gmail.com

SHULENBURG

RV Park Clubhouse 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 6:30-9:00PM

Contact: Loretta Baumgarten (979) 743-4388 Camp@SchulenburgrVPark.com

WIMBERLEY

Fri 8-12 PM, Rolling House Clubhouse

Contact: Mike Bond



Multi-Educational Cross Cultural Arts Association

MECCA is a 501c(3) nonprofit educational organization that teaches music & dance to adults and children. We provide ethnic / cultural / patriotic music and dance groups for civic, schools, churches, and club programs events.

*Phone: 254-526-9464
e-mail: dfkott@aol.com
YouTube channel: mecatx*

*Teaching the Children of the World to Dance,
Sing and Play Musical Instruments*

Membership and Advertising Rates



CTBA's Volume 2

\$10.00

(includes shipping costs to anywhere in the United States)

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

Central Texas Bluegrass has T-shirts in a new color. They are 100% pre-shrunk cotton, high quality shirts with CTBA's logo on the front. Available in Black and White. Sizes are S, M, L, XL, and XXL. Only \$15.00



Take \$5.00 off the advertising rates if you are already ad business member. Copy deadline is the 15th of the month. Publication is on or about the 1st day of the each month. Send electronic notices to: ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org Send payment to:

Central Texas Bluegrass Association
 Attention: Editor
 PO BOX 9816
 Austin, TX 78766

Advertisers assume liability for all content of advertisements and from any claims arising there from. We reserve the right to reject advertising for reasons of space availability or publication standards.

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.

Ad Size	Price
FULL PAGE	\$30.00
1/2 PAGE	\$15.00
1/4 PAGE	\$12.50
1/8 PAGE	\$10.00

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

Central Texas Bluegrass Association Bluegrass Newsletter is published by the Central Texas Bluegrass Association, a 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Texas Non-profit Corporation. Contributions are deductible as charitable and educational donations. Work published in this Bulletin is used by permission of the writers, artists, and photographers, who retain all copyrights. Tom Duplissey, Editor

Board Members:
 Sam Dunn, President
 Eddie Collins, Vice President
 Gloria Brayshaw, Secretary
 Duane Calvin, Treasurer
 Rixi Rosenberg, Coleman Stephens,
 Chuck Middleton, Tracie Upham, Joshua Upham
 Past President - Jami Hampton

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. KEEP ON PICKIN'

Support Texas music and get an “Enjoy Texas Music” license plate!

Funds received through your purchase of the “Enjoy Texas Music” license plate will help make grants to benefit music-related educational and community programs sponsored by Texas non-profit organizations (like CTBA!!!).



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



Central Texas Bluegrass Association

P.O. Box 9816
Austin, Texas 78766

ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org

Phone: (512) 415-3177