

Central

Texas Bluegrass

IBMA Member

Vol. 35 No. 12

December 1, 2013



CTBA Membership Drive

The CTBA annual membership meeting/drive was held November 3rd at Waterloo Ice House in Austin. It was a whooping good time as musicians of all skill levels participated in a 50-verse version of New River Train.

It's safe to say that nearly 50 musicians participated, singing 50 verses and choruses with nearly three times that many solos performed. **Dale Albright** was awarded "Most Different Instruments Played" (5). **Clara Shaw** was the youngest performer (age 3) and **Dan Rupp** was recognized for providing the most creative verse.



Photo by Bob Vestal

Jeff Burton, a former mandolin student of Eddie's, won the Blueridge BR-40 guitar in the raffle. **Susana Robertson** won the CTBA emblazoned blanket (donated by CTBA member **Eddie Zihlman**). **Ben Buchanan** won a mandolin gig bag and **John Jacob** (an original charter member) won two tickets to the Steve Kaufman concert.

Plus, it was fun just watching Eddie wrangle the players and singers as they came and went during the song.

As someone commented at the end of the song, "Well, I'll never forget that tune now!" Yes, indeed.

During the meeting, Eddie introduced the new and re-elected CTBA board members for 2014: **Duane Calvin** (currently serving as treasurer), **Chuck Middleton** (manages membership), **Alice Moore**, **Jamie Stubblefield**, **Rob Lifford**, and **Bob Vestal** (editor).

And a special thank you to a guy who picked a little, sang a little, and made sure everyone else sounded great. Thanks to **Jerry Rabun** for setting up and running the sound system. You rock, Jerry!

We'd especially like to say so long and a big thank you to **Josh Upham**, **Coleman Stephens**, and **Jenn Miroi** as their time served as board members expires. All have provided time, talent, and leadership during their terms.

Jenn will continue to concentrate on the success of **The Carper Family** band. Josh graduates from high school in May 2014 and plans to attend the **Baylor University** honors college in Waco. He then plans to pursue a career in law after graduation. Coleman will do, well, what Coleman does.



Photo by Jean Vestal

Overall, it was a fun event with lots of folks and lots of good (though strangely singular) music. There's still time for you to submit a new membership request or renew your existing membership. Remember, every dollar goes to help promote, support, and encourage bluegrass participation and appreciation in Central Texas. Until next year, Merry Christmas to all and, as always, keep on pickin'!

The Central Texas Bluegrass Association
Presents~

Guitar Workshops

Steve Kaufman's Guitar Workshops

Steve Kaufman is a Three-Time Winner of the prestigious National Flatpicking Championships. Steve has over 100 award winning instructional books, CDs, and DVDs to his credit and 19 CD recordings.

Steve will be conducting his "Award Winning" Hands-On Flatpicking Guitar Workshops at *Wildflower Terrace*.

Bring a Guitar, tape Recorder, and Lots of Questions.



Where: Wildflower Terrace, 3801 Berkman Dr., Austin, TX

Times: Beginner/Intermediate Guitar Workshop

Friday, December 6: 7pm-9:30pm

Bluegrass and Swing Guitar Workshop

Saturday, December 7: 10am-12:30pm

Intermediate/Advanced Guitar Workshop

Saturday, December 7: 1:30pm-4pm

Concert: Saturday, December 7, 8:00pm, Cactus Cafe

Sign up at the CTBA website www.centraltexasbluegrass.org!

Questions? Contact Eddie Collins at tuneman@austin.rr.com

Presented by CTBA and

Collings
GUITARS



**Voted
Best Workshops
Since 2002**



Goodbye, Old Pal (with apologies to Bill Monroe)

by Stacy Holt

At the end of 2013, CTBA will say goodbye to Eddie Collins as its President. As CTBA Vice President, it was been my honor to work closely with Eddie this year. And, because of my unique position as a CTBA board member and knowing Eddie for the past six or so years as one of his students, I feel that I need to say a few things about Eddie.

I don't think people can begin to fathom how tirelessly Eddie has worked on the Board, not only as President this past year, but also as Vice-President the year before. Plus, compound that with the fact that Eddie has continually run the CTBA Garage Sale and Band Scramble for so many years that I have lost count.

Besides the Band Scramble, which remains the single biggest CTBA fundraising event each year, Eddie has had a hand in so many more CTBA events. He uses his wealth of connections in the local Bluegrass community to bring in acts for the various CTBA events, such as last year's Annual Membership meeting at Scholz's.

Eddie also provides donation possibilities like raffle items for Old Settlers and membership drives. He has made sure that CTBA continues to partner with sister organizations like AFTM that can help CTBA to grow as much as we can help them. CTBA had a prominent participation in their recent annual music festival.

Personally, I have noticed Eddie taking a major part in making sure that new comers to Bluegrass music and playing are welcomed warmly. Eddie has always made sure that people ease into jamming and performing through his yearly recitals, the monthly Thursday night open mics, and making sure that people know that the CTBA Sunday jams are open to all levels of pickers. Sometimes, Eddie will branch off and create a circle of "newbies" to help them with group jamming and etiquette.

I hope I have shed just a little light on a few of the countless ways Eddie has blessed the CTBA community. The next time you run into him, take the time to stop and say thanks. It's the least we can do to pay him back for the effort he has provided to ensure that CTBA continues to be a thriving organization for years to come.

So, even though Bill was singing about his dying horse, I think the title, "Goodbye, Old Pal" would fit in nicely here.



Photo by Ken Brown





**Multi-Educational
Cross Cultural
Arts Association**

MECCA is a 501(c)(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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/mecatx)

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

Guitar retail, music lessons, and recording services



**THE MUSICIANS
WOODSHED**

Hours M-Th 11-7 pm, Fri 11-6 pm, Sat 12-5 pm
512-614-6491
themusicianswoodshed.com
Pickin' On The Porch acoustic jam first
Wednesday of every month 7:00 - 11:00 pm

Listen Responsibly - MilkDrive

We first told you about MilkDrive back in March 2011 after they'd been together a couple of years. Now, a couple of years even later, and hearing them around town and at Daren Appelt's Ham Jam House Concert, I decided it was time for an update. You'll remember the band members are:

Brian Beken - Fiddle, lead vocals
Noah Jeffries - Guitar, harmony vocals
Dennis Ludiker - Mandolin, harmony vocals
Matt Mefford - Double Bass

Where are you from originally?

Brian Beken: Conroe, TX.

Noah: I am from Wilder Idaho, which is a small town west of Boise.

Dennis: I am from Spokane, Washington.

When did you start playing?

Brian: I started on violin at 7.

Noah: I started on the fiddle when I was 7. Picked up the banjo at 8, and everything else just came along throughout the years.

Dennis: I started playing fiddle at age 3. I learned guitar a couple years later and mandolin about a year after that.

Matt: I started playing Upright bass when I was 22 but played a little electric before that.



When did you get into bluegrass and why?

Brian: I had very little exposure to bluegrass growing up, as I was always going to Texas Style fiddle contests as a kid. I guess my first exposure to bluegrass was in Weiser, ID at the National Fiddle Contest, or in Mountain View, AR at another fiddle contest/bluegrass festival.

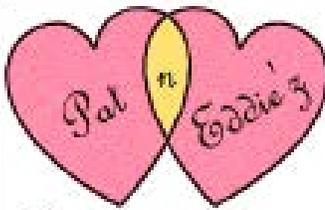
Noah: I grew up around bluegrass, country, and gospel music. Bluegrass was always a big part of our family because of the instrumentation that it usually has.

Dennis: I was exposed to bluegrass very young. I remember my mom listening to a lot of Alison Krauss growing up. There was also a lot of instrumental music like the David Grisman Quintet and Bela Fleck.

Matt: When I joined the South Austin Jug Band and met Dennis and Brian.

When did you come to Austin and why?

Brian: I came to Austin on June 1, 2004 to attend the University of Texas as an economics major. I lasted one semester before joining South Austin Jug Band.

	<p>Zihlman Enterprises (512) 837-4371 email palneddiez@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Banners Bears & Quilts etc.</p>	<p>Website: palneddiez.com We do Embroidery!</p>

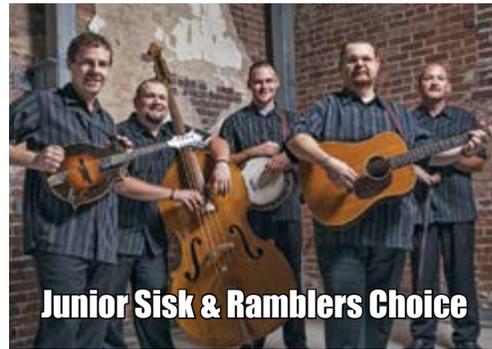
<p>Out of the Past</p> <p>Collectibles</p> <p>Open 7 Days (512) 371-3550 outofthepast@earthlink.net</p>	 <p>5341 Burnet Rd. Austin, TX 78756</p>
---	---

Bluegrass Heritage Festival

Friday & Saturday March 7-8, 2014

South Oaks Baptist Church 5925 US Highway 287, Arlington, TX 76017

**Blue Highway | Junior Sisk & Ramblers Choice
Special Consensus | Honi Deaton & Dream | The Purple Hulls
East Mountain | Bluefield Express | The Herrins**



Enjoy two days of bluegrass fun with great music, workshops, and jamming under the old oak trees!

Get your tickets today for this incredible two-day bluegrass music event! South Oaks offer great sound, comfortable indoor seating and plenty of great places to jam. All workshops included with festival admission.



BluegrassHeritage.org

info@BluegrassHeritage.org

214-918-0010

SPONSORED BY



**J&S Paint
& Body Shop**
Frisco Texas



Brian "Doc" Hull
In honor of
Dr. Wayland E. Hull
and Helen V. Hull

Noah: I moved to Austin in September of 2003. Dennis had already moved down from Washington for music and I followed about a year later to join the music world down here.

Dennis: I came to Austin in 2002 to pursue live music. I have been lucky to be able to make this my job.

Matt: When I was 19, to get out of Williamson County.

What artists do you like or tend to listen to the most?

Brian: What I listen to used to change daily, but these days it seems to change more monthly, or even seasonally. I used to listen to a lot of instrumental music. To me, musically, it is as free as you can get. Within the last few years I have shifted towards music with lyrics, I think in part because we are no longer an



instrumental band. When I listen to something like an album, I beat it into the ground. My current obsession is Hesitation Marks by Nine Inch Nails.

Noah: I listen to a lot of instrumental music, bluegrass to jazz and everything in between. I am also a big Tool and NIN fan. No exclusions in my music playlist.

Dennis: I like to listen to the people who inspire me to push my musical limits: people (who) have an interesting take on composition and soloing.

Matt: I listen to everything.

How did MilkDrive get started and where did the name come from?

Brian: Dennis, Noah and I met at the National Oldtime Fiddle Contest in Weiser, ID as kids. After years of camping and jamming together, Dennis was the first to move to Austin after high school for music, followed by Noah shortly after, and then Brian. The three of us lived together for years, each playing in different bands. We always knew we would play together someday, but not sure how. Around 2008, Dennis and Noah started to do duo shows, playing original music Noah had written in high school (designed for a bluegrass instrumentation quartet). After a few shows, they asked me and then SAJB (South Austin String Band) bassist Matt Mefford to join. MilkDrive was born. It was an instrumental side project until March 2011, when we finally had the opportunity to play together full time. MilkDrive is the name of a road that led to a dairy near Noah's childhood home in Idaho. It no longer exists.

Noah: Dennis, Brian, and I have known each other since we were little kids. We have always wanted to play together, it just took some time for all the pieces to come together.

Who does the writing and what is that process like?

Brian: It happens a few different ways. On the last record, I would come up with a skeleton or sometimes a completed version of a song and record all of the parts and e-mail it to everyone. We would get together and throw around ideas from that starting point. The music we have been working on lately has had a similar process I guess, but I've been collaborating with Dennis a lot more this time on a bunch of the preliminary stages of songs. We both have new houses so it's nice to lock yourself in sometimes.

Noah: Brian does most of the writing of lyrics. As far as the instrumental stuff, I wrote a big chunk of those, especially our earlier ones. These days, we try to collaborate as much as we can to get a sound that is original.

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

Proud to Support CTBA!

City of
Leander

Megan Pumphrey
P. O. Box 319
Leander, TX 78646

You played a house concert in October at Daren Appelt's Ham Jam House Concert. How did that go and what do you think of that venue?

Brian: It is one of my favorite places to play in Austin. Unbelievable house, unbelievable crowd, unbelievable host, and best of all, NO PA!!

Noah: Daren's place is amazing! We play there as much as we can because of the chance to play acoustic instruments in a beautiful space, with great people. If you haven't been to the Ham Jam House, GO!

What sets your jazzgrass style off from both traditional bluegrass and newgrass?

Brian: I think it sounds different because we take elements of other music and put them into a bluegrass instrumentation. Not to say that it hasn't been done before, but I'm not sure it has been done in this fashion.

Noah: I think a lot of the difference is the influences we try to bring into our sound. We draw a lot from David Grisman as well. His "Dawg music" is a style of its own and we grew up on that stuff. We are the furthest from a bluegrass band that we've ever been but we have definitely haven't forgotten the roots of this style.

Bluegrass is only expanding in sub-genres. There still are traditional bluegrass bands starting everyday. All of the sub-genres are adding their little piece of musical influence to the base and creating something new but not too different. That's the great thing about bluegrass, you can change it a little without losing the original idea and sound.

Do you have a favorite album?

Brian: We have three albums out. A live one, and two studio albums. I like *Waves* the best.

Noah: *Waves* would probably be my favorite. It's our most recent album and closest to our sound we currently have. *Live '09* is also a favorite because I'm a sucker for instrumentals.

Noah: We went back to Nashville to work with Bil VornDick. He did our last album and gets our sound, so it was a good fit.

Brian: It was recorded at Moutainside Audio Labs in Nashville.



What's your favorite thing about that album?

Brian: I like how it is another capture in time of the evolution of the band.

Matt: That we got Noam to do a solo on Benny's Bus.

Noah: My favorite thing about the album is oddly the artwork.

Yeah, what's up with the furry little animals?

Noah: We found an artist who loves to paint marmots. We contacted him and gave a few ideas and he ran with it. His name is Henry Schreiber. Nothing like seeing yourself as a marmot wielding a guitar as a weapon.

Do you play anywhere locally (Austin) on a regular basis?

Brian: We try to hit a few spots regularly, Cactus Cafe, Saxon Pub, or Threadgill's.

Noah: We play at Threadgill's, Saxon Pub, and Cactus Cafe. We are usually traveling the state or out of state so our Austin shows do happen very often.

What's coming up in 2014? Is there another CD in your future?

Brian: 2014 will bring a new album, a new extension of sound, and we cannot wait.

Any final thoughts you'd like to pass along?

Matt: I am currently rebuilding a 1975 Honda CL 360 Scrambler. Wish me luck.

Brian: Listen responsibly.

Always sound advice. Check 'em out whenever you can find them locally or on their website at milkdrive.com.



3-Time National Guitar Champ
Steve Kaufman

In Concert



Cactus Cafe, University of Texas
2247 Guadalupe St., Austin

With Special Guest Eddie Collins & the "A" List Players

December 7 at 8:00 pm

Tickets \$15. 512-475-6515
cactuscafe.org/events

CTBA member discount code: CTBA (save \$3)

Presented by CTBA and

Collings
GUITARS

A Brief State of the CTBA

by Eddie Collins

2013 has been a good year for CTBA and bluegrass. In our 35th year, our membership has remained steady at between 200 and 250. Our organization supported events and/or had booths at RiceFest, Old Settlers, Llano Memorial Day Fest, Fayette County Centennial, and AFTM's Fall Festival. Our 17th Annual Band Scramble/Fundraiser was one of the most successful ever and our New River Train event in November saw nearly 50 musicians perform and share in bluegrass camaraderie. We also sponsored three scholarships to send young pickers to Acoustic Music Camp in Arlington, TX.

Our non-profit organization remains financially healthy thanks in part to the great record keeping of Duane Calvin, our treasurer, who will remain on the board in 2014. We saw a smooth transition of the Newsletter editor position from Tom Duplissey to Bob Vestal and Jeff White continues to do an amazing job updating our website. We have maintained strong ties with businesses that support bluegrass, such as Fiddler's Green, South Austin Music, Waterloo Ice House, and Koop's "Strictly Bluegrass" show.

Moving the weekly jam to Hill's Café on South Congress seems to be a hit with nearly 40 pickers showing up on some Sundays with numerous jams of all levels breaking out. We also still maintain a bi-monthly beginner's jam held at the Wildflower Terrace in the Mueller complex.

We again have a strong board in 2014. One of their biggest challenges will be to continue to maintain a healthy membership level and to sponsor events that reach out to the entire Central Texas region. We will reignite our Bluegrass in the Schools program, which will hopefully lead to more young people becoming interested in our beloved music.

The new officers and board terms for 2014 are:

- ◇ Stacy Holt, President (2nd year of term)
- ◇ Jamie Stubblefield, Vice-president (1st year of term)
- ◇ Duane Calvin, Treasurer (1st year of re-elected term)
- ◇ Tracie Upham, Secretary (2nd year of term)
- ◇ Adam Roberts (2nd year of term)
- ◇ Jacob Roberts (2nd year of term)
- ◇ Chuck Middleton, Membership Chair (1st year of re-elected term)
- ◇ Alice Moore (1st year of term)
- ◇ Bob Vestal (1st year of term)
- ◇ Rob Lifford (1st year of term)

It has been an honor to serve as president for such a great organization this past year and I wish all of us continued success.



FREE MUSIC!
4th Saturday's
Coushatta RV Ranch
(January thru September)
Bellville, Texas
Buddy & Carolyn Brockett
(979) 865-5250
bluegrass221@peoplepc.com
www.springcreekbluegrass.com



Allen Hurt & The Mountain Showmen

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

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

CTBA Bluegrass Bands

The 145s

David Diers
512-814-5145
www.the145smusic.com

Air Cargo

Ray Cargo
info@aircargomusic.com

Alan Munde Gazette

Bill Honker
214-693-1620
bhonker@gmail.com

Allen Hurt & The Mountain Showmen

Allen Hurt (Sherman, TX)
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

Bluebonnet Pickers

Brooks Blake
830-798-1087

Blue Creek String Band

Thomas Chapmond
512-791-3411
tchapmond@gmail.com

Blue Skyz Band

Mike Lester
210-913-9597
www.blueskyzband.com

Buffalo Grass

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)
ddebrown@grandecom.net

Dave Seeman

512-557-2939
davidseeman7@gmail.com

Dueling Hearts

Wil Wilson
duelinghearts@att.net

Eddie Collins

512-873-7803
www.eddiecollins.biz
tuneman@austin.rr.com

Grazmatics

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

Hem & Haw

Ben Hodges & Jenn Miori
hemandhawmusic@gmail.com

James Reams & The Barnstormers

718-374-1086
james@jamesreams.com
www.jamesreams.com

Karen Abrahams

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

The Ledbetters

Spencer Drake 830-660-2533
kthdrake@wildblue.net

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

Missing Tradition

Diana & Dan Ost
512-850-4362
missingtradition@gmail.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
geoffu@geoffunion.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

The Stray Bullets

Bob Cartwright
bob.cartwright@sbcglobal.net
www.facebook.com/TheStrayBullet-sATX 512-415-8080

String Beans

Mike Montgomery
mikemon@astro.as.utexas.edu

Joe Sundell & the Show & Tellers

Rebecca Patek
262-617-4152
www.joesundell.com

Third Rail

Susannah Armstrong
936-870-7819
thirdrailbluegrass@gmail.com

Upham Family Band

Tracie Upham
uphambluegrass@gmail.com

Wires and Wood

David Dyer
210-680-1889

The Wimberley Bunch

Marilyn Lumia
512-557-2112

Woodstreet Bloodhounds

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

8th Annual Austin String Band Festival

by Coleman Stephens

On a crisp October evening at Camp Ben McCulloch, near Driftwood, Texas, the **Austin Friends of Traditional Music** brought their annual **String Band Festival** to life.

The weather was a little cool but the picking was hot. Friends and campers gathered around campfires to play String Band Music, Bluegrass, Americana and all manner of acoustic music, renew old friendships and make new ones.

Starting the festival Friday evening was a square dance called by **Sharon Isaac**. The band *Forked Deers* played. Sharon had people come out of the audience and taught them the steps and everyone caught on quickly and had a rollicking good time.

Following the square dance, *Charles Thibodeaux and the Cajun Aces* performed Cajun dance music and the crowd danced the Cajun two-step and waltz. Everyone really enjoyed this band.

The evening finished with the *Hopping Jenny* band and **Michael Iserio** from North Carolina calling the square and reel dances.

Many different types of music are featured at the AFTM festival, everything from Traditional Old Time String Band to Bluegrass to Swing to Country to Cajun, even Conjunto from *Los Pinkys*, a local Conjunto band.

The following bands played at this year's festival:

- Christy & the Plowboys - Traditional String Band music
- The Primetime Ramblers - Bluegrass
- The Carper Family - Great Harmonies in Swing, Country, and Bluegrass
- The Sawmill Vagrants - Traditional String Band
- Spencer & Rains - Traditional
- The Barn Owls - Traditional String Band, with square dance caller Sharon Isaac
- Charles Thibodeaux & the Cajun Aces - Pure Cajun
- Forked Deers - Traditional music
- Los Pinkys - Conjunto
- Brad Leftwich & Linda Higginbotham - Traditional
- Jenny & the Corn Ponies - Country and Swing
- Hopping Jenny - Traditional

Sunday concluded the festival with a Great Gospel Sing Along. This festival is a family friendly event and should be attended by everyone young and old whether you are a musician or not.

Plus, the kitchen this year was *outstanding*. The food was great and the prices were right.

See you Next Year!



Burnt Ends

Not the main meal but just some tasty bits



The official CTBA-sponsored, **Sunday afternoon, all-comers bluegrass jam** takes place at **Hill's Cafe, 4700 S. Congress Ave**, starting at **2:00 pm**.

Hill's is a great place for a meal or snack for the entire family in an iconic Austin setting. It's an "all-come" jam so, no matter what your skill level, you're welcome to come play or just hang out.



There is no bluegrass **open mic at the New World Deli** in December. The event has been held on the second Thursday of each month for the past four and a half years. A very special thanks to everyone for supporting this. Work up your tunes and we'll look forward to seeing you again in 2014.



Robertson **Jeff Robertson**, jeffrobertsonguitars.com, has a new CD of his original tunes, "Daddy Won't Be Drinking." The title cut, along with tunes about the Bastrop fires and his D-18, are derived from personal experiences. Jeff handles the guitar and lead vocals and is accompanied by **Alan Munde** on banjo, **Billy Bright** on mandolin, **Ray Cargo** on bass, and **Andreas Tophoj** on fiddle. Jeff will have his CD available at upcoming shows, such as the December 7th concert at the Cactus Cafe where he'll be joining the "A" List Players when they open for Three-Time National Guitar Champion, **Steve Kaufman**.



Guitars For Soldiers is an organization dedicated to donating guitars to all military personnel desiring a small travel guitar. Soldiers become eligible for a free guitar by simply entering their information at www.guitarsforsoldiers.com.



The **Graves Mountain Lodge** announced the line-up for the 22nd Annual Graves Mountain Festival of Music to be held May 29-31, 2014. Joining the talents of Steep Canyon Rangers, Lonesome River Band, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, and more are GRAMMY winning Canadian acoustic roots band The Duhks, the reigning International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) Female Vocalist of the Year & GRAMMY nominated artist Claire Lynch, and the reigning IBMA Male Vocalist of the Year Junior Sisk. More info is available on their website at www.gravesmountain.com, 540-923-4231, or Graves Mountain Lodge, Rt. 670, Syria, VA 22743-9999.



Visit Llano

www.promotellano.org

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



INSTRUCTION FOR BANJO, GUITAR, AND MANDOLIN

Private Lessons in North and South Austin

Eddie Collins

www.eddiecollins.biz
512-873-7803

Rice Festival - The Beat Goes On

by Sharron Reed

One of the biggest quandaries faced by the Bored of Directors of Cabin 10, Inc., the 501(c)3 that produced the Rice Festival for the past ten years, was whether Rice himself would have approved of such a thing. While he was full of life and love, he never enjoyed the spotlight or attention. Obviously, the Bored decided the good outweighed the bad and this little festival in Fischer, Texas came into being in November 2004 to coincide with what would have been Rice's birthday.

When Jeff Gavin, President of Cabin 10, introduced Cary Swinney on Friday night at this year's final Rice Festival, he told the crowd that when the decision was made in 2003 to "do this thing," there were two musicians he had to have at the Festival. The first was Rice's favorite, Tim O'Brien, and the second was Cary Swinney who Jeff said got him through that first year without Rice and whom he knows Rice would have loved.

Rice, Jeff, Dixie Watkins, and West Warren met at Camp Flaming Arrow in the 70s. Rice and Dixie were camp counselors and West and Jeff were among their campers. While at camp, a "quartet" was formed by Dixie, Rice and Jeff by the name of the Bill Gibbs Quartet. The joke was that there was no Bill Gibbs and, naturally, Bill would never show up. Each year, however, the Bill Gibbs Stage has been a standing tradition in the Auction



Founders of Rice Festival – Jeff Gavin, West Warren & Dixie Watkins (missing from photo: Jack Harrison)



Cary Swinney © 2013 John Grubbs

Barn. This year the talents of Judy Painter & Rose Kimball, Jimmie & John Whipple, Him and Her (Michael D'Eath and Brenda Freed), Pat Green, and Eric Gerber closed down the stage.

For Cary's finale on the main stage, he invited Jeff and Dixie to join him and they wore "Bill Gibbs Quartet 2013 Tour" t-shirts while they, along with Cary, Michael O'Connor and Richard Bowden performed Cary's **Death is Strange**. Only Cary, Dixie, and Jeff knew they were going to add a final verse sung by the remaining members of the Bill Gibbs Quartet:

*"I was sitting with Rice
Ten long years ago
Picking Bill Gibbs' swan song, y'all, we had no way to know.
Then a call from Jack brought me the news
Live it day to day
The end's not ours to choose."*

Those in the crowd who knew for whom the Rice Festival was named were on their feet, many overcome with emotion. Others, like myself just two years ago, learned that the Rice Festival isn't named for the crop that doesn't grow anywhere near there but for the man, Rice Herbert Harrington, who died unexpectedly and all too soon at the age of 50 in 2003.

Besides his immediate family, Rice left a league of extended family members; colleagues and campers from Camp Flaming Arrow, students from Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University), and students from San Marcos High School to name but a few. Since its inception, the proceeds from the Rice Festival have funded two scholarships a year for students interested in pursuing the arts.

Within two years the Rice Festival moved from a gathering designed to commemorate the death of a friend taken too soon to a sold out festival hosting the likes of Tim O'Brien, Tony Rice, David Wilcox, Hot



Jimmie & John Whipple performing on the Bill Gibbs Stage © 2013 Rockslide Photography

Rize & Red Knuckles, Jonathan Byrd, Eric Taylor, Darrell Scott, Peter Rowan, The Greencards, Sarah Jarosz, Mountain Heart, Susan Gibson, and Guy Clark to name but a few.

The second hardest decision for Cabin 10's Bored of Directors came last year when they realized it was time to retire the name "Rice" and that, if it was meant to live on, the right folks would come along. No small wonder that they did and, as of January 1, 2014, Dennis Hubbard (President), Thomas Chapmond, Leslie Collier, and David Daniels have been elected as the new Bored Members of Cabin 10, Inc., the 501(c)3 dedicated to funding scholarships for the arts. West Warren, a current Bored Member and a founding member of the Rice Festival, will remain on the Bored to ensure a smooth transition.

Over the years, musicians with whom Rice wasn't familiar joined the rank of Rice Festival favorites. Jonathan Byrd is one such artist. I'm told that Rice used to say that things come full circle; he was also someone who never fit the status quo and encouraged his students and others to "go beyond" and shake up the world a bit. Jonathan's lyrics in **I'm an Oak Tree** . . . 'a circle's a revolution after all' . . . fit that bill perfectly.



Slim Richey & Jonathan Byrd.
© 2013 Pam Jones

The Rice Festival has certainly been a revolution of music and love. You could hear a pin drop in Fischer Hall during Jonathan's set this year. I asked Jonathan why he thought the Rice Festival was so special. He said, "The Rice Festival is a family. All the artists hang together, from Peter Rowan and David Wilcox on down to the newest performer on stage. Festival sponsors sit with people whose only investment is a ticket. Everyone is included. Everyone is invested. Everyone is special. I play the same show every night. The audience is different. I wish all audiences knew how important they are to the show. The best audience I've ever had was at the Rice Festival. If I'd killed someone and gone to jail, I believe they would have brought me a pie with a file in it."

I also asked one of Rice's favorite artists, Eric Taylor, what he thought made it special. Eric said, "Like so many others in this business, I've played many different festivals over the years: Newport, Kerrville, Woody, and festivals pretty much all over Europe. However, I seem to settle in very well at a little festival in Fischer, Texas. The Rice Festival. Only around for ten years, but it seems to impact listeners and performers way down inside. Maybe the no frills genuine kindness and attention from everyone on the "staph". . . I look forward to seeing my friends there, some new, some many years long. The simplicity of the focus on music and kindness. Maybe that's why . . ."

Phil Collins began coming to the Rice Festival in 2009 as did Pam Jones and her husband Bill. Dave Hensley began coming in 2008. Phil shared that "I think one remark that really nailed the ambiance of the festival for me was made by John Wort Hannam. He said, 'Playing in here is like playing inside a giant guitar.' The combination of the music, the friendship, and the amazing room is a magical, unforgettable experience."



Hot Rize © 2013 Dave Hensley

Dave Hensley said he thought David Wilcox nailed the emotions of many when he spoke of "the ambient sweetness of this gathering." Pam Jones said, "Time stands still for me at Rice, and I can't quite put my finger on it. With the amazing musicianship all around this past weekend, I especially felt the entire crowd become mesmerized under Jonathan Byrd's spell."



The Sarah Jarosz Trio © 2013 John Grubbs

I also spoke with someone for whom this was his first Rice Festival and his sentiments probably best capture what others of us less eloquent feel. David Shane Duke said, "I had heard of the Rice Festival before, but not much, other than as an incredible small fest at a special venue, that I dearly love. Fischer Hall is one of those

German/Texas shrines for more than music and friends. It is a spiritual place. Sarah Jarosz and her precious angelic power did her thing with that magic she has had since a kid. Hot Rize had me floored then Slim Richey. I'd seen Slim walking around although I'd never heard him or the Jitterbug Vipers play before. They're definitely dangerous, powerful, jazzy blue poison. I never could have planned anything as magical as the flow of the Rice cosmos. That's the power of music. The spirits will also move ya - RIP Rice and Festival and thank you from the depths of my soul."

BLUEGRASS JAMS!!!

NOTICE: Be sure to contact the venue and/or host to ensure the jam/show is still active. The only info we have about each of these is what was sent to us. If you find a problem with any venue or need to change your information, drop us a line at ctba@centralbluegrass.org.

AUSTIN

2nd & 4th Saturday, CTBA Sponsored beginner-intermediate jam, 3801 Berkman Drive, 78723, 3:00 - 5:00 pm. Call Steve Mangold 512-345-6155 for info on all Austin jams.

1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7:00 pm at Bruce Mansbridge's home

Every Sunday, Hill's Cafe, 4700 S. Congress Ave, Austin 78745, 2:00 pm

Every Tuesday, Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam, 8:00-10:00 pm, Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto, 78701. Info: Tom Lindsey, lindseytg@aol.com

BANDERA

4th Friday, 6:30 pm, Silver Sage Corral, east of Bandera. Info: 830-796-4969 (No jam on Good Friday)

BELLVILLE

4th Saturday, Jam & Show (Spring Creek Club Sponsored), Jan- Sep, Jam @ 4:00 pm, Show @ 6:30, Coushatte RV Ranch, 979-865-5250, bluegrass221@peoplepc.com, www.springcreekbluegrass.com

Carrollton

Jam info at: www.meetup.com/bluegrass-142

Clear Lake - First Tuesday, 7-9 at Fuddruckers, 2040 NASA Pkwy, Houston, 77058, Info: www.bayareabluegrass.org/Jam_Stacks.html

Corpus Christi

2nd Sunday, 2:00 pm, Heritage Park, Corpus Christi, South Texas Bluegrass Association, Info: Bill Davis 361-387-4552

Dallas

1st Tue., Bluegrass Heritage Foundation jam, 7:00 pm, Charley's Guitar Shop, 2720 Royal Lane, www.charleysguitar.com, 972-243-4187

Dickinson - Every Friday, 7-9 pm, Dickinson BBQ and Steakhouse, 2111 FM 517 East, 77539, Info: www.bayareabluegrass.org/Jam_Stacks.html

FAYETTEVILLE

2nd weekend, April - November, starts at 6:00 pm, Courthouse Square, info: www.texaspickinpark.com, Tom Duplissey at 512-415-3177

FIELD CREEK

1st Sat, Field Creek Music, 6:00 pm, Field Creek is between Llano and Brady on Hwy 71. Info: Bill Tuckness 325-247-3223

Garland

Bluegrass on the Square between Main & State Streets at 6th from 7:30 - 1:00 AM. Contact: Jim Miller 972-276-3197

GEORGETOWN

Every Thursday at Dickey's BBQ Pit, 723 W. University Ave, 78626, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, 512-869-8076, sigi@sigi.us, or pages.suddenlink.net/jrf/rr/.

GLEN ROSE

3rd Sat., Oakdale Park, Paluxy River Bluegrass Assn. Jam @ 2:00 pm, free stage show @ 6:00 pm, Friday night camping encouraged, John Scott 817-525-0558

HARWOOD

3rd Sat., 2-9 pm, JAM & Stage Show, 9 mi. E. of Luling, Hwy 90, Info: Tony Conyers 512-601-1510 or 512-940-3731

HONDO

1st Friday, Hondo Hootenanny, starts at 11 am, Hondo Community Center, 1014 18th st, Hondo, TX Info 830 426 2831

LEAGUE CITY

3rd Sat., (Jan-Nov) Jam 4:30pm (BABA Sponsored) Show at 7:00 pm, Info: Rick Kirkland 281-488-2244, www.bayareabluegrass.org

LIBERTY HILL

4th Sat., Jam, 1-6 pm, Hwy 29 West, Info: Paula 512-778-5410

LLANO

4th Sat. (Jan. - Oct.), Bluegrass in the Hill Country Jam, 5:30-10:30 pm, at The Badu House, Info: info@BluegrassInTheHillCountry.org

2nd & 4th Thursday, Beginner/Intermediate, 7:00 pm, First Presbyterian Church, Info: Jeff White 325-248-4114

1st Sat., Field Creek Fiddle Jam, 6-9 pm, Field Creek is between Llano and Brady on Hwy 71, Info: Bill Tuckness 325-247-3223

3rd Sat., Pontotoc Fiddle Jam, 6-9 PM, Pontotoc is between Llano and Brady on Hwy 71, Info: Bill Tuckness 325-247-3223

MANCHACA

Thur., 6:30-9:00 pm, Manchaca Railroad Bar-B-Q, FM 1626, Info: Dave 512-680-4433

MEDINA

2nd Tue., All Gospel Jam 6: pm, First Baptist Church, Info: Linda Barton 830-589-2486

MONTGOMERY

1st Sat., Jam, 10 am-2 pm, downtown historical District, Discount coupons at local KOA, Info: Mike Davis mld@consolidated.net

PEARL

1st Sat, Pearl Bluegrass Jam & Show, 10 am, Pearl Community Center, FM 183 (not US 183) 7 mi South of Purmela, RV hookups available, Info: Ronald Medart 254-865-6013, www.pearlbluegrass.com

ROUND ROCK

3rd Sat., 2-5 pm, Danny Ray's Music, 12 Chisholm Trail, www.dannyraymusic.com, 512-671-8663

San Antonio - Mondays, 6:30 pm, Grady's #8, 13525 Wetmore Rd., 210-343-8080 or Peyton Starr @ 210-870-4321

SHULENBURG

1st & 3rd Tue., RV Park Clubhouse, 6:30-9:00 pm, Contact: Loretta Baumgarten 979-743-4388 or Camp@SchulenburgRVPark.com

UTOPIA

3rd Friday, Jam, 7:00 pm, Senior Citizens Center, Info: Skip Doerr 830-966-6362

With all this talk of the last Rice Festival, however, it's probably most important to be amazed by that grace and grateful that the music will continue in this magical place. Thanks to the new Bored of Directors, Fischer Fest will still take place in early November. Thomas Chapmond, one of the new Bored members and serious patron of the arts in Central Texas said, "The new bored recognizes the incredibly big shoes (and sandals) we have to fill. Our goal is to maintain the extremely high quality of music that has become a tradition at Rice



Hank & Shaidri Alrich – Rice Grass 2013

Festival while continuing support of scholarships and providing an enjoyable and relaxed environment for artists and music lovers." Thomas has also been instrumental in helping the Kerrville Folk Festival Grassy Hills New Folk winners to get shows in Texas in November culminating at the Rice Festival. That tradition is also expected to continue. And anyone who knows Dennis Hubbard knows of his passion for music, tradition, and gatherings of friends.

So, mark your calendar for May 1, folks – the date tickets go on sale. The new Bored intends to cap the audience at 300, as in years past, although there's an endless supply of Yard Bird tickets. With the 2014 musical lineup already in the works, and the close-knit relationship that the new Bored mem-

bers have with Jeff Gavin and Dixie Watkins, combined with West Warren remaining on the new Bored – Fischer Fest (a/k/a Company of Friends Fest) – is sure to continue as a "can't miss" event.

The Rice Festival's "sister fest" – Rice Grass – which took place the last weekend of March for the past four years, is also being retired with a comparable festival expected to take its place. Rice Grass was acoustic roots music including Old Timey and Bluegrass. Past performers included Byron Berline, Tim O'Brien, Alan Mundy, The Deadly Gentleman, The Freight Hoppers, and the up and coming Bottom Dollar String Band, to mention just a few.



© 2013 Dave Hensley

As Cary Swinney shared with me when I was asked to write the article that preceded the Rice Fest 2013, "Good deeds and good people do not go through their lives without the notice of those who loved them. When these good people pass unexpectedly, it reminds the rest of us to live life to the fullest, because after all, life truly is short. We're supposed to appreciate it (life) - and the Rice Festival helps us to do just that . . . appreciate it!"

Rice's favorite musician, Tim O'Brien, credited with truly starting the tradition of Rice Festival, was encouraged to hear that the festival will continue although under a different name and he plans to keep Texas on his fall calendar. As he shared in October, "Rice's love of music and art was pure and thus contagious. Spreading and manifesting . . . and helps the love continue and grow. Rice did his part, the festival did its part, and faith tells me the world will continue to do its part. Rice and the festival move on, but the love remains."

Viva Arroz! Viva Fischer Fest. Enjoy Cary and Co. singing *Death Is Strange*: tinyurl.com/mkvwks.



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

You can also request the form from your local store.

Come Join Us at the
**Hill Country
Acoustic Music Camp**
January 10-12th, 2014



www.hcamp.org

2014 Faculty include:

Alan Munde – <i>Banjo</i>	Chris Sanders – <i>Voice</i>
Steve Smith – <i>Mandolin</i>	Sue Carpenter –
David Hamburger – <i>Guitar</i>	<i>Mt. Dulcimer</i>
Dick Walker – <i>Fiddle</i>	Tim Porter – <i>Guitar</i>
Ann Luna – <i>Bass</i>	

**Details & Registration on line at
www.hcamp.org or call 830-459-2120**

Membership and Advertising Rates



CTBA's Volume 2, \$10.00, (includes shipping to anywhere in the United States).

The printed newsletter costs CTBA about \$26/year per mailed subscription. If you can, please select E-mail Newsletter.

Membership Rates:	with E-mail Newsletter	with Paper Newsletter
Individual	\$25.00	\$30.00
Band	\$35.00	\$40.00
Student	\$15.00	\$20.00
Family	\$35.00	\$40.00
Business	\$50.00	\$55.00
Lifetime	\$300.00	\$300.00

CTBA has 100% pre-shrunk cotton, high-quality t-shirts with CTBA's logo on the front, available in Black and White in S, M, L, XL, and XXL for only \$15.00. The new Mona Lisa and Earl Scruggs t-shirts are \$20.00.

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 CDs or would like us to include promo material for artists performing in Texas, please send to our e-mail at ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org or snail mail to the PO Box listed above.

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

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

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 newsletter is used by permission of the writers, artists, and photographers who retain all copyrights. Bob Vestal, Editor

Board Members:
 Eddie Collins, President
 Stacy Holt, Vice President
 Coleman Stephens, Secretary
 Duane Calvin, Treasurer
 Rob Lifford, Chuck Middleton, Alice Moore, Adam Roberts, Jacob Roberts, Jamie Stubblefield, Tracie Upham, Bob Vestal
 Website, Jeff White

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 provides festival venues for our readers and fans of bluegrass music to enjoy. KEEP ON PICKIN'!