

Central

Texas Bluegrass

IBMA Member

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The Parkbench



Saturday jam at Mueller.
Photos by Alison Frank.

Welcome to March! And, none too soon, I might add. It got pretty chilly there for a while and I suspect I'm not alone in my anticipation for warmer weather. Check back in with me in August, though.

We seem to have a jam theme to this edition in one way or another.

Stacy Holt, CTBA President, wrote an article this month about our beginner jam and how important and beneficial it is, especially for beginners, to get plugged into that bi-monthly jam.

I've heard more times than I can count over the years how playing with other folks just helps you be a better player, regardless of what your long-term goals are for playing, whether it's just for fun or for serious.

The beauty of our beginner jam on the 2nd and 4th Saturday at the Mueller subdivision is that players of all skill levels are welcome. There are plenty of folks and we all know there's safety in numbers!

But, that's true also of the weekly Sunday afternoon jam at Hill's Cafe.

Hill's is a great venue because there's plenty of room for multiple-jam circles. That gives everyone, again regardless of skill level, a group to play with who share similar expertise.

So, as the weather improves, find a jam, join in on the fun, and keep on pickin'! - Bob Vestal, Editor



Sunday jam at Hill's.
Photos by Bob Vestal.

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Meet the Artists -

Dueling Hearts

From the heart of central Texas comes the bluegrass band **Dueling Hearts**. Founders Wil and Darla Wilson formed this 5-piece band, as we'll learn and, as they say, the rest is history. Billed as "...an energetic, uplifting bluegrass band" and "a joy to watch", they perform traditional, original, and up-and-coming tunes, sung with beautiful vocal harmonies and foot-stomping banjo licks. So, let's get to know some mighty fine folks a lot of you already know called **Dueling Hearts**.

Introduce yourselves and tell us little about the band.

Both Wil and Darla Wilson are the founders of the band.

- Wil Wilson: Banjo and lead vocals
- Darla Wilson: Guitar, lead and harmony vocals
- Dawn Hill: Guitar, lead, and harmony vocals
- Alvis Hill: Bass
- Arnie Adams: Guitar/mandolin, lead and harmony vocals
- JP Shafer: Mandolin, Fiddle, 2011 Texas Mandolin Champion, 2013 3rd place National Mandolin Competition



Dueling Hearts: Alvis, Dawn, Wil, Darla, and Arnie. Photo © & courtesy Casey Nystrom Photography .

How did each of you get started with both music and bluegrass?

Darla is the baby out of six children. Her mother could sing soprano, tenor, or alto. Her family would sit around the piano and sing, and one time joked about forming a family band called the JDs, (five girls names started with Ds and one boy began with J). Darla believes her love of harmony came from her mother and from growing up in the Church of Christ and singing acapella.

Wil and Darla got married in 1985. On their first Christmas, Wil bought Darla a guitar. He had a banjo and was just learning how to play (actually only forward and backward rolls). They taught themselves through books and cassettes. They practiced in separate rooms until they could finally play together. Wil began listening to "The Dillards" and more of Earl Scruggs. Their genre of music slowly changed from country / folk to bluegrass.

About 20 years ago, Wil and Darla joined with a bunch of friends and formed the band "The Wortham Stringbenders". They performed at many local bluegrass festivals, such as Tres Rios, Llano, Spring Creek, etc., as well as traveled to Manhattan, KS and Minden, LA. That band slowly disappeared so they could raise their family. They founded their current band, "Dueling Hearts" once their children reached high school.

Alvis: I grew up with a love of music and started playing bass in high school when a friend needed a bass player for his band. I didn't know anything about playing bass, but when my buddy found me a cheap pawn shop bass and amp, I decided to give it a try. Two weeks after touching the bass for the first time, I was playing in front of an audience. (Very badly!) But I was hooked and have been playing in church and various bands off and on ever since. Playing bluegrass is a relatively new thing for me but I've fallen in love with the old doghouse bass and love making music with Dueling Hearts.



JP, Arnie, Darla, Wil, Dawn, & Alvis
Photo © & courtesy Patsy Adams

Dawn: I don't remember a time when music wasn't a part of my life. My mother played organ in our small church when I was young, gave piano lessons, and sang at weddings and funerals regularly. My dad played harmonica and later took up the accordion. I was in choir and band in high school. I found my mother's old guitar at age 10 and a neighbor girl taught me a couple of chords to get me started. I had a little band in high school that played at local club meetings (Lion's Club, etc.), rest homes, and any place else we could find. I majored in music for 2 1/2 years in college before I dropped it to a minor and have played on church music teams off and on most of my adult life.

Alvis and Dawn found bluegrass when their cycling group out of Gatesville (the Cycloholics) started riding their bicycles from Gatesville to the Pearl Bluegrass Festival. The Pearl folks immediately accepted this group walking around in their cycling clothes (spandex) and even loaned Alvis and Dawn instruments when they discovered that they played! This is where they met Wil & Darla. The cycling group doesn't ride any more but the Hills rarely miss a Pearl weekend!

Arnie: I grew up in the hills/mountains of Southwest Virginia in the 40s and 50s. The music on the radio was hillbilly / bluegrass. I began to play guitar at age 11, learning from my dad, other relatives, and friends. (I love singing and playing Bluegrass music, but my very wise friends have advised me to not give up my day job.) Many bluegrass greats including Jim and Jesse, The Stanley Brothers, and others are also products of Southwest Virginia.

“Wow, That's some great picking, love the ending especially on the banjo and the energy. I like the mando players tasteful mix of Monroe style. Y'all are doing great!”
— Joe Morrow, Facebook

JP Shafer: I was born in 1995 in Waco, Texas. I became fascinated by music at an early age and first took the stage at Oakdale Park in Glen Rose, Texas at the age of nine, where I played guitar and sang “Folsom Prison Blues”. I performed at Tres Rios, also in Glen Rose, at the age of ten, again



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playing guitar and this time singing “Ring of Fire”. My early love of traditional country and gospel music soon transformed into a passion for bluegrass.

I used all of my money (and some of my parents’!) to purchase a banjo I saw for sale at the Little League park where I played baseball when I was eleven and began tinkering with a mandolin and a fiddle that I found at my grandmother’s house. I played violin in the school orchestra from the fifth grade through the eighth and was active in choir in the eighth and ninth grades.

I have played an integral part in founding three youth bands. *Blackland Prairie Band*, which was the foundation of *Third Rail*, that was highlighted in the documentary “Unbroken: The Pearl Bluegrass Circle”, then *Highlands Crossing*, a progressive bluegrass/newgrass band. I’ve been the mandolin player and occasional flatpicker for *Dueling Hearts* since 2009. I won the 2010 Youth Mandolin Championship at the Oklahoma International Bluegrass Festival, where I also took third place in Flatpicking. I was the **2011 Texas State Mandolin Champion** and won 3rd place in the 2013 National title in Winfield, Kansas. I was awarded a scholarship to Camp Bluegrass in 2010 by the Central Texas Bluegrass Association, and was the recipient of the 2011 Horizon Award given by the Music Association of Central Texas.

Darla: Although JP still plays with us, we will be losing him this fall when he moves to Nashville to begin college. We have found a new young 12 year old fiddle player named Marlys Coursey. She and her family are from Burleson. She is a young JP when it comes to talent.

When and how did *Dueling Hearts* get started?

When we decided to record our first CD we had to decide on a name for ourselves. We finally agreed on the name *Dueling Hearts*. We thought it best described Wil’s songs: love of God, love for one another, and songs of heartache, therefore his songs are a “duel of the heart”.

We met Alvis and Dawn at the Pearl Bluegrass Show in March 2011. We knew Alvis could play the upright bass because he had played with JP in another band called *The Blackland Prairie Band*. What we didn’t know was that his wife Dawn could sing wonderful harmony. I had been wanting another female voice to harmonize with me, so I knew we had to get them to join our band. Previous to meeting them, our band consisted of only Wil, me (Darla), Arnie and we were very fortunate to have the very young JP Shafer at age 14 play along when he wasn’t playing with his own band.



Dueling Hearts. Photo © & courtesy Casey Nystrom Photography.

Do you do mostly covers or original material?

During our live performances, we try to keep an even number of cover and original songs. When we recorded our first CD, we only recorded original material. We decided to include some cover songs on our second CD along with original material not only written by Wil, but from some of our friends as well.

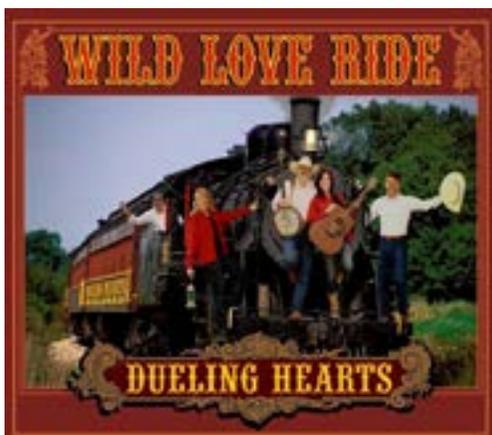
Who writes your original material and how that process works?

Wil is the main songwriter for the original songs on the CD. He wrote all of the material on our first CD and most of them on our second.

Darla has two songs that she co-wrote with her mother, Lois Gardner. “Hands of Time” and “Dreams and Memories”. Darla’s mother is unaware of them because she died in 2001. Lois and Wil have the same birthday (30 yrs. apart) and they both write beautiful poetry and songs.

Alvis and Dawn also have talent in song writing and wrote the song, “The Coffee Shop”. We wanted to include it on our CD because it was inspired by one of our favorite places to play, The Coffee Shop Café in McGregor, TX. “You’ll Always Be 18 To Me” was written by our friend Rita Jones.

When one of us writes a new song, we pitch it at practice (which is every Monday night at Alvis and Dawn's house). The writer explains and demonstrates the tempo and melody of the song. Dawn has a wonderful talent of finding everyone's harmony part. Sometimes practice will consist of only learning our parts. The more we repeat a song, the more creative we get with the instrumentation and the arrangement of the song.



CD cover: Casey Nystrom & Travis Rawlinson

Tell us about your latest CD and how it came about.

Well, it had been about two years since we had released our first CD. We had several songs we still wanted to record and Wil was writing more every month. We didn't want to travel to Oklahoma again because, even though we had a fair recording with our first CD, we weren't truly happy with it. Everything was on such a tight time schedule and we felt as if our recording was a rush job. We decided to look at our options here in Central Texas. We decided to use DRS Studio here in Waco, owned and operated by Steve and Kayla Rosas. We took our time and after two years we released our finished product. It was wonderful having Dawn and Arnie to add their harmony vocals. I didn't have to harmonize with myself as I did from our previous project.

We learned that when people look at songs on a CD, they look for something they are familiar with. When we performed at Six Flags over Texas in 2011, people enjoyed our performance of our original material, but when they looked at our first CD they didn't see any of the cover songs. Our latest CD, "Wild Love Ride" contains 14 songs with only four cover songs. The rest were written by Wil, Darla, or our friends.

Any favorites on the CD?

We figured that "You'll Always Be 18 To Me" would be the favorite, but we get requests for "God Is Good All The Time", "Rocky Top", and "Fishing In The Rain" which is Wil's favorite and of course The Coffee Shop loves it when we play their song!

"Hands of Time" has a lot of meaning to me (Darla). My mother wrote it as a poem originally titled "Happy Mother's Day" and gave it to her mother. As her mother and then my mother died, it was re-read at their funerals. I took that poem and changed it to a song and re-wrote some of it to apply to the memory of a mother or father.

You can usually find Dueling Hearts at

Pearl Bluegrass Show: Pearl, TX, First Sat every month, www.pearlbluegrass.com, or
Coffee Shop Cafe: McGregor, TX, once a month (call to find out when) 254-840-2027

Dawn stays busy with booking the band and has them booked through August with some time off in June for family vacations. But, you can have a foot-stompin', first-hand experience at one or more of their upcoming shows:

- March 8th: Big Sandy Bluegrass Show, Big Sandy, TX
- March 21st: Lillian Baptist Church, Lillian, TX
- April 12th: Longhorn Caverns inside the cave!
- April 25th: Red Caboose Winery in Meridia

Be sure to check their website at www.dueling-hearts.com where you can purchase digital downloads, hard copy CDs, or T-shirts. Take a look at some of their pictures or even watch the videos. For their complete schedule, always check their schedule page at www.dueling-hearts.com/schedule. Many thanks to the band and well wishes to as fine a bluegrass band as you'll find anywhere: **Dueling Hearts**.





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- Tuesday April 8th, Prairie Lea, Texas**, Prairie Lea High School Auditorium, presented by the Tri-Community Volunteer Fire department. For Information contact 512-488-2329, 512-455-9232, or www.karlshiflett.com.
- Thursday April 10th, Lexington, Texas**, Lexington Elementary School, presented by the Lexington EMS Service. For information contact 512-844-2267, 512-455-9232, or www.karlshiflett.com.
- Friday April 11th, Freeport, Texas**, Brazos Port High School Auditorium, presented by the Gulf Coast Emergency Rescue Squad Proudly. For information contact 979-849-5882, 512-455-9232, or www.karlshiflett.com.
- Saturday April 12th, Eustace, Texas**, Eustace High School Auditorium, presented by the Eustace Volunteer Fire Department. For information contact 903-288-4018, 512-455-9232, or www.karlshiflett.com.

What's the Purpose of a Set Up?

by Dave Trexler

How might your acoustic instrument benefit from a *set up*? My next few articles will cover the elements of a set up, starting with this overview. We'll presume that you have a six-string, acoustic, steel string guitar, though the principles apply to other instruments as well. Further, we'll presume that your guitar is well-built, in good condition, and has been protected from extremes of temperature and humidity as described in my last article (see centraltexasbluegrass.org/Adobe_Newsletters/Feb14.pdf).

A good set up maximizes playability and minimizes buzzes, while preserving clarity, volume, and tone, all based on the way you play.

There are two types of instruments that can benefit from a set up – new instruments and instruments that are not new. Even the finest new instrument is usually set up at the factory with somewhat high *action* or string height, often both at the nut end and up the neck. This allows the eventual owner, you, to tailor it to your needs. Also, changes happen to an instrument as the wood realizes that it's not a tree anymore and reacts to string tension. Further, it's shipped from the climate-controlled environment of factory or workshop, through who-knows-what weather conditions, to a temporary home in your favorite music store, and finally to you. Now that your new instrument has had a chance to settle in a bit, the set up can be dialed in to your preferences.



The key variable in a good set up is you, the player, so I always start with a series of questions. First, what string gauge (or diameter) do you prefer? For the player, this choice subtly affects the *feel* and sound of the instrument. For set up purposes, the difference is the amount of tension on the instrument when tuned to pitch. This tension pulls curvature, or *relief*, into the neck, as well as pulling the top of the instrument up a bit at the bridge, both of which secondarily raise the action, or string height. Most modern instruments have an adjustable truss rod that is used to produce the ideal amount of neck relief when the instrument is tuned to pitch.

Next, I'll want to know how you play. Are you a beginning, intermediate, or advanced player? Do you play mostly in first position, or up and down the neck? Do you fingerpick, flatpick, or a bit of both? Do you play acoustically, competing with loud banjos and fiddles, or amplified with easy volume control? And, most importantly, do you have light, medium, or aggressive technique? With this information I can optimize the instrument for you.

Once your instrument is set up, it'll be good for quite a while. In fact, it should improve. A wooden instrument tends to sound better, or *open up*, the more it's played, so go for it! It will, however, continue to be affected by the constant pull of string tension in inevitable and predictable ways that affect playability and sound. Wood continues to change as it ages. Frets, nuts, and saddles also wear over time. For *not new* instruments, an occasional set up helps keep your instrument playing at its best. Over decades, it may eventually require major surgery, but that's another story...

Next time, we'll look at some of the elements of a set up in more detail. Meanwhile, keep on pickin'.



Back Up and Push...to a jam

by Stacy Holt

A few years back I had the pleasure of finding myself in a music camp in beautiful Michigan. I also had the pleasure of finding out that it is also tornado alley in the early summer! But I digress. I happened upon a fellow banjonista and offered to pick a tune together. We decided to play *Salty Dog* and he led off the song. After he played the lead, we switched off and it was my turn to play the lead. I found it interesting that he accompanied me on the lead break. After the song had finished, he complimented me and said, "I really liked that stuff you were playing at the beginning." I replied, "Oh, you mean the BACKUP?"

It seems that my new-found friend had, like many other budding bluegrass players, neglected to learn the fine art of backup. A lot of new players, especially the banjo sort, tend to learn only the lead part of *Cripple Creek* and not the all important art of backup. The great Earl Scruggs commented once that 85% of his playing was backup. And that was a lot of playing!

I was fortunate enough to have an excellent instructor (the great Eddie Collins) who made sure that I was well versed in backup. Each time we learned a new song, he always made sure I was right there ready with the backup of the song. In his books, he spends a lot of time going over the many facets and nuances of playing near the neck on a banjo. In addition, I learned that a mando "chop" is the bluegrass group's version of a drummer.



Eddie taught me the three important moveable chord forms in both banjo and mandolin. These are very important to learn and to understand that sometimes you should play high when the lead is playing lower (like at the nut guitar lead), or playing low when the vocalist is singing high. On the banjo, playing the 'F', 'D', and bar form chords is essential to any beginning or intermediate player. These three shapes can be found in many different areas up the fretboard. An interesting fact is that you can easily play the I, IV, V backup using one of each of the three forms in only a three-fret span!

So, now that you have learned the moveable chords and have practiced the ability to switch between them flawlessly, what now? Find the nearest jam where you can go and play backup until your fingers are bloody and bruised. If you are a beginner or intermediate player and you don't have a lot of experience jamming, the best place to start is playing backup at a jam. It's like wading in at the kiddie end of the pool. You don't have to take a lead break if you are not ready. But, you can play all the backup you want. You can learn to play soft backup with a banjo and find yourself welcomed at jams instead of sneered at by all the other players as the "really loud banjo". Trust me, the rest of the group will definitely appreciate you as a well groomed backup banjo player.

I have spoken to a few folks who were hesitant to visit the excellent CTBA beginners jam because they didn't feel they were ready. I can tell you from my own experience, it is a great way to ease into jamming and you will be welcomed to join in whether you play a lead break or just want to practice your backup.

To get you started on the road to better backup, check out Eddie's book, *Basics of Bluegrass Banjo...and a whole lot more* at his website www.eddiecollins.biz. He also just produced a new backup book for you more advanced players, *Blazing Backup for Bluegrass Banjo*.



Bluegrass In Schools

by Alice Moore

Sharing the love of bluegrass music with area school children has been a goal of CTBA since the early days of the organization. In fact, the central mission of CTBA is "...to promote bluegrass music in Central Texas." What better venue to achieve that mission than in our schools?

Although, there have not been many programs in recent years, CTBA was recently invited to bring a program to the students of Hill Elementary in Austin.

Two of our most talented CTBA musicians/teachers, Eddie Collins and Wes Green, presented an entertaining and educational program to two classes at Hill Elementary on February 21st.

Approximately ninety students grade classes actively participated in discussions of the geographical origins of bluegrass roots of American bluegrass

All of the various instruments students eagerly participated and tonal qualities of each. They to share their math skills when strings each instrument has.

The Hill Elementary music Hill PTA were instrumental in program at their school. They local bluegrass bands, **Wood and Wire**, perform for an all-school assembly on March 6th and, if you're a parent of a Hill Elementary student, you're invited.

If you think this kind of program would be a fun and educational experience for kids in your school districts, send us an e-mail at ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org with the name of the school and contact information for you or them.

It's never too early to start a bluegrass education and this is one program the kids will love.



from the first and fourth pated in discussions of the instruments as well as the music.

were demonstrated and the in discussions on the sizes students were also quick figuring out how many

teacher, Debra Erck, and the having CTBA present this are also having one of our

assembly on March 6th



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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.

The bluegrass **open mic at the New World Deli** continues this month. The event has been held on the second Thursday of each month for the past four and a half years so, put Thursday, March 13th, on your calendar. Come have a sandwich, pick a tune, or just enjoy the diversity of talent that always shows up. We get started around 6:30 pm.



There's still time to plan for the **Old Settler's Music Festival** coming up Thursday through Sunday, **April 10-13, 2014**, in Driftwood. For more info, see www.oldsettlersmusicfest.org or call them at 888-512-SHOW.

The **Manchaca Railroad BBQ jam** night has changed to Wednesday nights. The restaurant closes at 8 pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. They finish at 8:00, so they're going to try and start earlier and start the jam by 5:30.

The Bluegrass Heritage Foundation is excited to share an evening with two great bluegrass bands coming through DFW: **Red Wine**, from Italy, on Thursday night April 10, and the **Claire Lynch Band** on Friday night May 9! See our website at www.bluegrassheritage.org/Events.php for more information.



Phoebe Hunt will play the Cactus Cafe in Austin on Saturday, March 8, at 8:00 pm. **Ali Holder** opens. See www.phoebe-huntmusic.com for more shows and more details.



The **Concho Valley Bluegrass Festival** will be held in the air-conditioned Wells Fargo Pavilion, **San Angelo, TX**, Friday, April 11, 4:30-9:30 and Saturday, April 12, 11:00-9:30 benefiting the Concho Valley Home for Girls. No alcoholic beverages allowed. For more information, contact Ricky Rogers 325-650-8934 or Sammye Ruppeck 325-655-3821. Tickets \$10-25, children under 14 get in free with adult. Members of armed forces admitted free with military id.



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 or 512-301-3856.

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, Coughatte 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: http://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: http://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 or sign@sign.us.

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 at 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

Wed., 5:30-8:00 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, The Barbecue Station, 1610 N.E. Loop 410, Harry Wurzbach exit, 6:30pm, 210-824-9191

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

Fiddler's Frolics

by Adam Roberts

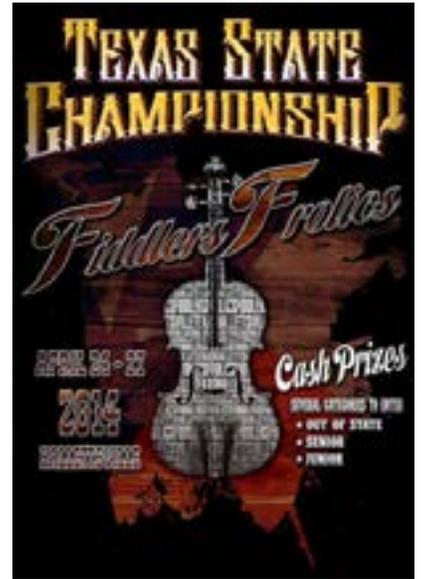
Texas Style Fiddling is a native form of Texas music that is unique to our state. While not considered bluegrass, it has influenced bluegrass musicians through the years, and has had an impact on the way bluegrass fiddle is played.

Hallettsville, Texas, has the largest and arguably one of the most prestigious fiddle contests in the nation. **April 24th through the 27th** will mark the 45th year this contest has been held.

This year a favorite regional bluegrass band, **Louisiana Grass**, will be performing on Friday the 25th before the contests begin. Pair this with BBQ contests on Saturday and Sunday, RV and tent camping, and plenty of opportunities to jam, it's easy to see why Fiddler's Frolics has been a favorite event over the years.

So, if you enjoy Texas style fiddling, good barbeque, and a good time, making the short drive to Hallettsville would be a great way to spend a spring weekend in central Texas, and who knows, you might pick up a new lick or tune that will fit right into your bluegrass playing.

For a complete schedule of events, activities, and directions see www.fiddlersfrolics.com.



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

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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 a 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:

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THE CENTRAL TEXAS BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO PROMOTE BLUEGRASS MUSIC IN CENTRAL TEXAS.

Our members range from listeners and lovers of bluegrass music to world-class professional musicians who all have the same desire: to promote the music.

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

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

Leftover Biscuits

Stuff I didn't have room for in the print edition



Austin's own **MilkDrive** (<http://milkdrive.com>) plays the Dosey Doe's Music Cafe in Conroe on May 2nd. Yes, it's a ways down the calendar but just in case you're in the area you'll know. For more info, see www.doseydoescoffeeshop.com/acousticcafe.php.

The **Arbuckle Mountain Bluegrass Park** is one of the fastest growing bluegrass parks in Oklahoma. The park is known for its friendly atmosphere with absolutely no drugs or alcohol allowed. They have three events a year that bring people from every corner of the US and Canada. There are two jams mid-May and the festival in September. For more information about the park, see their website at www.arbucklemtbluegrasspark.com.



In case you didn't catch it in the article, **Dueling Hearts** is playing the **Big Sandy Bluegrass Show**, March 8. Doors open at 4:00 pm for the jam and the show starts at 7:00 pm. Admission is \$7.00 and it all happens at 204 South Tyler, in Big Sandy, TX. For more info, call 903-738-3216.



The **Carper Family Band** just returned from a tour in Germany and a terrific and inspiring Folk Alliance Conference in Kansas City and are gearing up for a busy schedule back in Austin this month before heading into the Northeastern part of the US in early April. Check out their schedule at www.carperfamilyband.com.

The **Academy of Texas Music, Inc.** released the list of official nominees for the 12th annual **Texas Music Awards** in February. Voting has closed but the awards show is March 22nd at The Texas Music Barn, the venue inside the World Headquarters of the Academy of Texas Music, Inc., 301 E. Houston St., in Linden, TX. For more info see www.texasmusicawards.org.



According to various news sources around Austin, **Flipnotics** is closing on March 24th. The prevalent story is that the owner of Flipnotics and the landlord that they lease the property from can't come to an agreement. So, as they say, another one bites the dust.



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.