

Central Texas Bluegrass Association

Bluegrass

Bulletin

Serving the Central Texas bluegrass community since 1978

Member IBMA

Volume 37, No. 7

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July 2015

Sunday, July 5: CTBA Band Scramble at Threadgill's North

By Eddie Collins

Yup. It's that time again. It's the CTBA's 19th annual garage sale and band scramble, Sunday, July 5, 2-6 PM at **Threadgill's North**, 6416 N. Lamar. The garage sale portion of the event will be where the buffet is usually set up. We'll have CDs, instructional materials and other music related items, and T-shirts (didn't make it out to the RayFest? Here's your second chance to get a RayFest T-shirt at a bargain price).

The second part of the event is the band scramble, where up to 40 area (continued on page 3)



The weather in Texas is as changeable as a chameleon on a rain gauge. One year it's a drought, next year it's monsoon season. But don't let that stop you from scrambling out to Threadgill's on July 5. If you miss it, you'll be green with envy. Photo by K. Brown.



Jamming at the 2012 CTBA band scramble; Waterloo Ice House, June 1, 2012.
Left to right: Jeff Robertson, Jacob Roberts, Matt Downing. Photo by K. Brown.

July birthdays: Jeff Autry, Byron Berline, Ronnie Bowman, Sidney Cox, Dave Evans, Bela Fleck, Jimmy Gaudreau, Bobby Hicks, Jim Hurst, Alison Krauss, Andy Leftwich, Everett Lilly, Larry McPeak, Jesse McReynolds, Charlie Monroe, Scott Nygaard, Molly O'Day, Peter Rowan, Allan Shelton, Valerie Smith, Bobby Thompson, Jake Tullock, Rhonda Vincent, Keith Whitley... oh, and also the United States.

Alison Krauss will be in Austin on July 6. No, she's not coming for the band scramble (at least as far as we know, but we can hope, can't we?), it's for the Waylon Jennings tribute at ACL Live. Standing room tickets are \$175; seats are \$275. Yikes.

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musicians come by and throw their name in the appropriate hat as to what instrument they will play. Names are then drawn to form up to six new bands with each working up a couple of tunes to share after a brief rehearsal period. The performances will be on Threadgill's state of the art stage with their sound system and sound engineer (multiple mikes if you need them). This is a great event so come on by to cheer on your favorite pickers if you're just a listener. Last year we had 49 musicians.

We'll pass the tip jar. All the money raised goes to CTBA to help them in their mission to support bluegrass in Central Texas and to offer scholarships to music camps and workshops for deserving youth. Last year we raised \$3800 — maybe we can top that this year!

Below is the order of events. Hope to see you there!

11 AM-1 PM: *Out of the Blue* plays the Bluegrass Brunch. Watch CTBA board members Rob and Jamie, along with Ginger, earn their migas.

2-4:30 PM: Buy new/used music-related items, such as instruments, CDs, DVDs, strings, books, etc. Fill the gaps in your library with that missing copy of *Muleskinner News* from 1976.

3 PM: Up to six new, on-the-spot bands are formed from bluegrass/old-time pickers with stage experience who sign up to join the fun.

4-6 PM: Bands perform their tunes. There are no winners or losers, just a chance to cover yourself in glory (and try to memorize the names of your bandmates).

Donated items may also be dropped off in the collection box at Fiddler's Green on 35th Street through July 3rd. Consider making a charitable contribution in support of CTBA if you have musical items you no longer want or need. Past garage sales have included instruments, recording devices, CDs, DVDs, strings, books, etc. Donated items are tax deductible. Contact Eddie Collins ahead of time if possible to have your item collected (tuneman@austin.rr.com)

Front Porch Showdown Results

On Saturday afternoon, May 30, the **Bluegrass Heritage Foundation** sponsored their "Front Porch Showdown" band contest at Dallas Heritage Village in downtown Dallas. If you've ever been to Farmer's Branch for the festival and seen the historic buildings there, well, Dallas Heritage Village is similar, only bigger and more architecturally diverse. In north Texas, I guess the solution to inconveniently historic buildings is to move them out of the way and aggregate them somewhere as a tourist draw. Anyway, because of rainy weather the contest was held in the pavilion from 4-6:30 PM. Nine bands competed, and each band got exactly 15 minutes to play as many songs as they could fit in, with a sound system provided (and sound engineering by "the" Gerald Jones). The order of performance was by a random drawing. Most bands were able to fit in anywhere from about three to six songs or instrumentals.

The audience had to buy a ticket to get into this event, and each audience member was given a ballot and instructed to vote for a single band. Promoter Alan Tompkins estimates that about 250 people were present, despite the overcast and threatening rain, with about 185 ballots cast.

The final accounting isn't done yet, but Tompkins say he hopes they have raised at least \$500 each for the Bluegrass Heritage Foundation and for Dallas Heritage Village. There was a merchandise table, too, with a great selection of Heritage Foundation T-shirts, caps, and other gear.

After the ballots were in and counted, Tompkins announced the results. The winners and their awards were:

1. Bobby Giles and Music Mountain (\$550)
2. Strings of Faith (\$400)
3. Acoustic Sound Hounds (\$300)
4. Bluestem (\$150)
5. Pearl and the Polka Dots (\$100)

The audience was enthusiastic, even when applauding for band members who weren't their relatives. I had hoped that this would be an opportunity for jamming with some of the north Texas folks I don't get to see too often, but after the awards were made, the crowd rapidly dispersed, probably thinking it was going to rain again. I did get to jam with Mike Jump (formerly of *Cadillac Sky*) however, and that was certainly fun.



The incomparable Rachel Bates (usually seen behind a fiddle) competes as a member of Pearl and the Polka Dots at the Front Porch Showdown. You can often see this irrepressible trio at the monthly Pearl bluegrass jam. Photo by K. Brown



Competing bands at the Front Porch Showdown played inside the pavilion before a couple hundred enthusiastic audience members. Photo by K. Brown.

How to Write a CD Review

By your hardpressed editor

When my copy of *Bluegrass Unlimited* lands in the mailbox each month, one of the first things I do is to turn to the back of the magazine and check out the CD reviews. Many of you probably rely on satellite radio to find new music, but I still read the reviews, and if I find something that looks promising, I check the *County Sales* web site to see if they've got it yet. If you live in a Sirius XM bluegrass universe, maybe you prefer downloads and don't even care about CDs, but when you drop your iPod in the lake, you'll wish you still had your CD collection. And I think we could still use more CD reviews in the *Bluegrass Bulletin*.

Writing a CD review is really pretty straightforward. You don't have to wax effusive, nor do you have to pan the recording. The real purpose of a review isn't to be judgmental, it's to let the reader know what's in the package. Of course, if you have strong feelings about the music, either positive or negative, you should say what's on your mind, but remember, it isn't *obligatory* to be judgmental! Use your... um, ...judgment about being judgmental.

Every review should have these basics:

1. Name of artist
2. Name of recording

3. Release date (year)
4. Recording label, if any (if no label is listed, then say “self-released”)
5. Catalog number, if any (if no catalog number, then say “no number”)
6. A scan of the cover in JPG format, if possible
7. Tracklist
8. The major contributors. You needn’t list everybody who played on the record, but if Adam Steffey or Jerry Douglas or Sierra Hull is guesting on someone else’s recording, we’d like to know about it. You can omit the glockenspiel player who added the tag to track 11.

Check the Hot Rize review on page 7 of the January, 2015 issue of this newsletter (available through the web archive) for an example of the recommended format.

So much for the mechanics. For the body of the review, just tell what it’s all about. Is it mostly vocals, with a few instrumentals? Is it an all-fiddle tune CD? An album of Civil War songs? Cover tunes, or all originals? Is this a new offering from an established band like the Gibson Brothers, or the first recording from a new, unknown band we’ve never heard before (if it is, you should devote plenty of space to who they are and where they’re from). If it’s an established band, how many recordings have they done previously? Or is it a solo production, with guest pickers drawn from well-known professional bands? Where do the pickers come from, and who have they played with before? What flavor of bluegrass is it – hardcore traditional, jamgrass, Celtic-flavored? Are there any unusual offerings borrowed from unexpected genres? I’m thinking, for example, of Irving Berlin’s *‘Birth of the Blues,’* done as a dobro instrumental on *Fluxedo* by Jerry Douglas — in 1982, that was pretty unconventional and unexpected. Are there any outstanding or innovative arrangements that really caught your ear? I’m thinking, for example, of how the Front Porch String Band arranged Roy Acuff’s classic *‘Wabash Cannonball,’* on their eponymous album (Rebel 1624). When Claire Lynch still does that song, she still uses the same arrangement. What about the liner notes? Are there any, and how complete are they? Can you hear all the instruments, or is somebody buried in the mix? These are just a few examples of kinds of things you could mention. Found a hidden gem that nobody else around here has heard yet? Let us know about it.

2015 Flatpicking Contest Results

Our sister organization, the Bay Area Bluegrass Association, hosted the **2015 Texas State Flatpicking Guitar Contest** in League City on Saturday, June 20. I couldn’t make it, but Judy Sturgeon kindly provided some results. There were, I believe, five contestants. The first place winner was **Holten Doucette**, from Waller. He got a trophy, \$300 in cash, a Gibson J-15 guitar, and best of all, paid entry as he represents Texas at the national championship — the Walnut Valley festival at Winfield, Kansas. Let’s hope they don’t get rained out this year. Second place (a trophy and \$150) went to **Garret Ratliff** from Cherokee, and third place (a trophy and \$50) to **Shain Gustin** from Katy. The judges commented that the top three contestants were

close in point spread, and the top two were even closer. The prize money and the Gibson were donated by Mike Fuller of Fuller's Guitars, and the trophies by longtime bluegrass stalwart Ed Fryday.

Right: First-place winner Holten Doucette of Waller.
Photo by Travis Posey.



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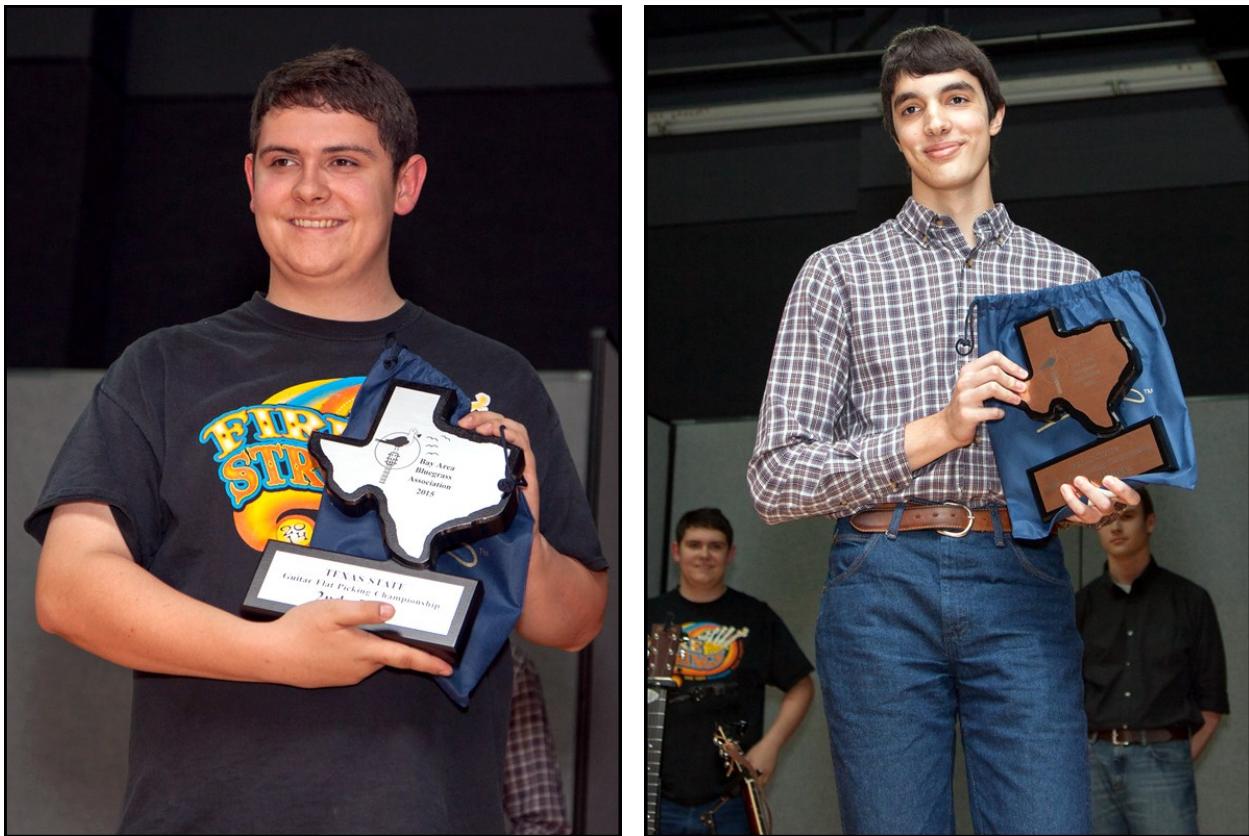


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2015 Flatpick winners: Left, Garrett Ratliff (second place, Cherokee); right, Shain Gustin (third place, Katy). Photos by Travis Posey.

Good News

This is from the June issue of *Bluegrass Unlimited*:

The state of Kentucky has committed to providing an additional \$5 million towards the International Bluegrass Music Center in Owensboro, Ky. These funds represent the last of the money needed to begin construction of the Center. Groundbreaking is scheduled for later this summer, with completion expected in 2017. The Center will house an improved museum, the International Bluegrass Hall of Fame, a 500-seat concert hall, a research library, and a rooftop restaurant overlooking the Ohio River.

Sounds like the kind of place where you could spend an entire week, doesn't it? And I can't even imagine what the opening ceremony is going to be like. Wonder what they'll serve in the restaurant? "Forward" rolls? "Tony" rice? Taters a la Tate? "Delma" curry?

And speaking of food, if you attend the monthly jam at Pearl and your route takes you through Lampasas, you may find yourself looking for a place to eat on the way. There are a variety of sandwich shops in town, and now there's a brand-new one. Since CTBA is a non-profit, we don't endorse particular brands unless they give us bales of money, so I won't mention the name. I will say, however, that their **bunz** are **lotz better** than the **onez** at the competition.

CD Review: Irene Kelley, “Pennsylvania Coal,” Patio Records (no number; 2013)

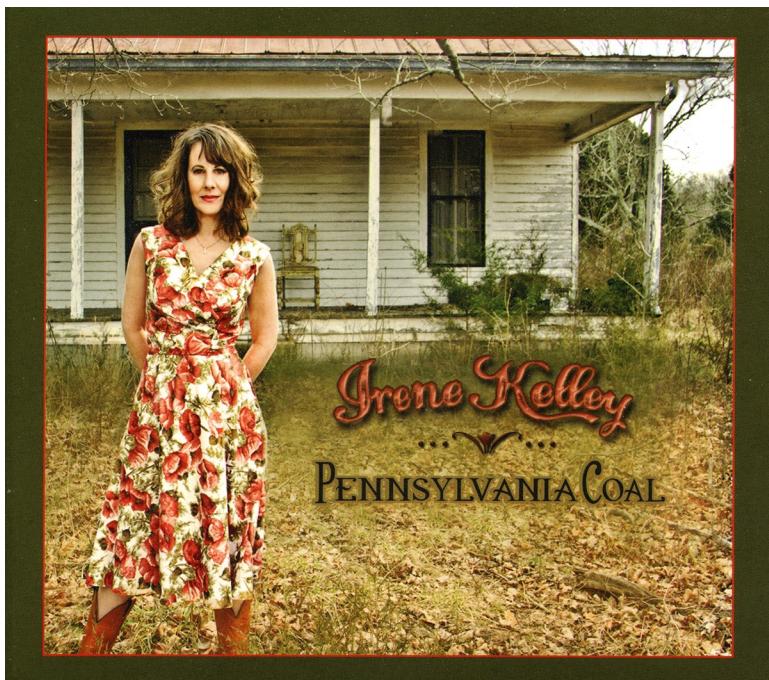
You Don't Run Across My Mind / Feels Like Home / Pennsylvania Coal / Breakin' Even / My Flower / Rattlesnake Rattler / Sister's Heart / Things We Never Did / Angels Around Her / Better With Time / Garden of Dreams / You Are Mine

I think of Irene Kelley as a singer-songwriter, thoroughly at home at the Bluebird Café, but on this CD, produced in 2013 and released the next year, she's backed by some of the best that bluegrass has to offer: Bryan Sutton, Stuart Duncan, Adam Steffey, and Mark Fain handling the instrumentation, with Claire Lynch, Dale Ann Bradley, Rhonda Vincent, Darren Vincent, Carl Jackson, Steve Gulley, among

others, providing the harmony vocals. Scott Neubert (if I'm not mistaken, a former resident of Austin) adds dobro on the very last track. Irene handles all the lead vocals, and all the songs are co-writes with such notables as Jon Weisberger (*Chris Jones and the Night Drivers*) and David Olney. A coal miner's granddaughter, Irene is from Latrobe, Pennsylvania (original home of Rolling Rock Beer) and the title coal-mining song is the Pennsylvania version of “You'll Never Leave Harlan Alive.” She lives in Nashville now, and has written songs for Carl Jackson, Ricky Skaggs and Sharon White, Trisha Yearwood, Loretta Lynn, Rhonda Vincent, Claire Lynch, and others. She has plenty of ties to bluegrass, and is performing at bluegrass festivals this summer. Aside from an unreleased MCA album, this is her third CD, following *Simple Path* (2001) and *Thunderbird* (2004). She has also contributed to volumes 1 and 2 of *The 1861 Project*.

Maybe it's just me, but I think there's a distinct influence here from Claire Lynch, with whom she has co-written previously and who contributes harmony on two songs. The tempos and the writing style have a subtle, well, “clarity.” And at times, she even sounds a little like Claire. There are ten different co-writers involved here (the sign of a Nashville professional, I guess). The topics span everything from heartbreak, sororal love, non-sororal love, home, regret, and those rattlesnake rattles that find their way into Appalachian fiddles and guitars. I think my favorite tracks are *You Don't Run Across My Mind*, *My Flower*, and *Angels Around Her*, and on the last-named, it's Claire Lynch's high harmony vocal that adds that touch of perfection.

There's only one problem with this recording, and it surfaces about three seconds into the first track: drums. Needless drumming is the only thing separating this release from a perfectly good bluegrass CD. Why on earth, with Adam Steffey chopping the mando, would you want to clutter it up with percussion? Get a copy, nevertheless, and make up your own mind. *KMB*





Bay Area Bluegrass Association Presents:
Texas State Mandolin Contest
 Johnnie Arolfo Civic Center
 400 West Walker, League City, TX
Saturday, July 18, 2015
Grand Prize - \$300 + Mandolin
 + paid admission to National Finals in Winfield, KS
2nd Prize - \$150
3rd Prize - \$50
Contestant Entry Fee - \$20
Registration ends 6:30 p.m.
Competition Starts at 7:00 p.m.

Details @ bayareabluegrass.org





Colee and David Littlefield
 Festival Management/Promoters
 Salmon Lake Park-Coushatta Recreational Ranch

26717 Bayou Tesch Dr. www.TXBluegrassMusic.com c. 936-697-5949
 Magnolia, TX 77354 coleebiller@aol.com c. 281-259-5453



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Tim May - David Hamburger dobros, Lee Thomas - clawhammer banjo

David Hamburger, Sam Swank - fingerstyle guitar

More teachers TBA



AcousticMusicCamp.com

call or email Gerald Jones:

214-236-0783

info@AcousticMusicCamp.com

Watermelons for sale or rent. Minimum order 200 lbs. *avoirdupois*, also used Farmall tractor tires, cheap, have been patched a few times, well, more than a few. May contain some hay. Used flathead banjo, in good condition except for a few bullet holes (.38 caliber), for sale, serial no. filed off by previous owner. Elmer Curbfeeler, Catwater Sundries, Catwater, Tx.

CTBA Artists and Bands

Karen Abrahams Band

(512) 484-0751
karen@karenabrahams.com
www.karenabrahms.com

Alan Munde Gazette

Bill Honker bhonker@gmail.com

The Austin Steamers

Joe Sundell (501) 416-4640
www.theaustinstreamers.com

Bee Creek Boys

Jim Umbarger (512) 922-5786
info@beecreekboys.com

Better Late Than Never

Duane Calvin (512) 835-0342
BLTNbluegrass@gmail.com

Blazing Bows

Cara Cooke (512) 280-9104
caracooke@gmail.com

Bluebonnet Pickers

Brooks Blake (830) 798-1087
ranchdoc@zeecon.com

Blue Creek Bluegrass Gospel Band

Bing Rice (830) 253-7708
bluecreekbg.com
bluecreekbing@cs.com

Blue Creek String Band

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

Blue Skyz Band

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

Bottom Dollar String Band

John Ohlinger (512) 431-5150
Bottomdollarstringband@gmail.com

David & Barbara Brown

(361) 985-9902
ddbrown@grandecom.net

BuffaloGrass

Don Inbody (512) 923-0704
don@inbody.net
buffalograssmusic.com

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Jenn Miori
carperfamilyband@gmail.com

Chasing Blue

(512) 963-7515
suzoleson@aol.com
www.chasingblueband.com

Christy & the Plowboys

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dan@fostersplace.com

Eddie Collins

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Train (512) 814-5145
daviddiersbooking@gmail.com

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bluegrassman@usa.com

The Grazmatics

Wayne Ross (512) 303-2188
rossdeanie@aol.com

Hard to Make a Living

john.hood.tx@sbcglobal.net

Allen Hurt & the Mountain Showmen

Allen Hurt (Sherman, Texas)
www.allenhurt.com

The Ledbetters

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

Lone Star Swing

Gary Hartman (979) 378-2753
gh08@txstate.edu

Los Bluegrass Vatos

Danny Santos
danny_santos@hotmail.com

The Lost Pines

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

Missing Tradition

Diana & Dan Ost
(512) 850-4362
missingtradition@gmail.com

Rod Moag & Texas Grass

(512) 467-6825
rodmoag@texas.net

Out of the Blue

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

The Pickin' Ranch Ramblers

Richie Mintz
Ritchie@ritchiemintz.com

Pine Island Station

Gary & Janine Carter
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pineislandstation@gmail.com
www.pineislandstation.com

The Piney Grove Ramblers

Wayne Brooks (512) 699-8282
877-899-8269
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The Prime Time Ramblers

Jacob Roberts
jrobertsrr@gmail.com

Ragged Union

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James Reams & the Barnstormers

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james@jamesreams.com
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Redfire String Band

Molly Johnson

Robertson County Line

Jeff Robertson (512) 629-5742
jaydunya7@yahoo.com

Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Bluegrass Band

Dave Walser
dave@davewalser.com

Shawn Spiars

(512) 627-3921
sspiars@gmail.com

The Showmen Bluegrass Band

Ben Buchanan
bbuchanan6@austin.rr.com

The Sieker Band

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

The Stray Bullets

Bob Cartwright (512) 415-8080
bob.cartwright@sbcglobal.net

String Beans

Mike Montgomery
mikemon@astro.asutexas.edu

Upham Family Band

Tracie Upham
uphambluegrass@gmail.com

White Dove

Angie Beauboef
glen_angieb@yahoo.com

Wires and Wood

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

Woodstreet Blood-hounds

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

Yellowgrass

Brett Morgan (512) 745-0671
morganpiper@yahoo.com

CTBA Area Jams and Events

AUSTIN AREA, CTBA

Every Sunday, 3 PM-??, CTBA Sunday jam at Hill's Café, 4700 S. Congress; (512) 851-9300.

2nd and 4th Saturday, 3-5 PM, beg./int. jam at Wildflower Terrace, 3801 Berkman Drive; Steve Mangold (512) 345-6155.

1st and 3rd Thursday, 7-9 PM, beg./int. jam, Northwest Hills area; Steve Mangold (512) 345-6155.

Every Thursday, 6-9 PM, beg./int. jam, Texican Café, 11940 Manchaca Road; Dave Stritzinger, (512) 689-4433.

Every Tuesday, 8-10 PM, Texas Old Time Fiddling, Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto; (512) 474-1958.

BANDERA

4th Friday of each month at Silver Sage Corral- east of Bandera. Starts at 6:30 pm. For more info call (830)796-4969 (Not on Good Friday)

BELLEVILLE

Texas Bluegrass Music jam/show Jan. through September, **4th Sat**; 4pm jam, 6:30 pm show. Coushatta Recreation Ranch, 2812 Nelia Rd. (936) 697-5949 coleebiller@aol.net
www.TXBluegrassMusic.com

Plenty of RV camping, restrooms, showers.

BURNET

2nd Saturday, 5 PM, Café 2300, Hwy 29 west

CORPUS CHRISTI

2nd Sunday, 2 PM, jam at Heritage Park, 1581 N. Chaparral St. Bill Davis (361) 387-4552, stx.bluegrass@gmail.com

DALLAS

1st Tuesday, 7-9 PM, Charley's Guitar Shop, 2720 Royal Lane #100. (972) 243-4187
www.charleysguitar.com/Events.asp

DICKINSON

Every Friday, 7-9 PM, Dickinson BBQ and Steakhouse, 2111 FM 517 East.

FAYETTEVILLE:

Texas Pickin' Park: Jam **2nd Saturday**, Apr.-Nov. beginning at 6 PM on the courthouse square. Acoustic instruments only.
For info: info@texaspickinpark.com
www.texaspickinpark.com

GARLAND

Bluegrass on the Square: **Every Saturday**, March- November between Main and State Sts. At 6th, 7:30 PM to 1 AM

GLEN ROSE

3rd Saturday, Oakdale Park, Paluxy River Bluegrass Association, free stage show and jam; John Scott (817) 525-0558.

HOUSTON

1st Tuesday, Fuddruckers, 2040 NASA Rd 1

JOHNSON CITY

3rd Saturday, 2-6 PM, jam at The Dome, 706 W. Main St., Hwy 290 W; Charlene Crump, (512) 632-5999. Potluck at 6 PM, optional jamming afterward.

LEAGUE CITY (BABA)

3rd Saturday: Jam 5 PM, Stage show 6:30 PM Jan- Nov., League City Civic Center, 300 W. Walker St. (281) 636-9419. Sponsored by Bay Area Bluegrass Association.

LIBERTY HILL

4th Saturday, 4-9 PM, jam at the Stocktank, 8950 Ranch Road 1869, Liberty Hill; (512) 778-6878.

LLANO

4th Saturday (Jan.-Oct.), 5:30-10:30 PM, *Bluegrass in the Hill Country* jam at the **Badu House**, 601 Bessemer Ave.; (325) 247-2238; www.bluegrassinthehillcountry.org

PEARL

1st Saturday: Jam all day/night, stage show, 12:15 PM-6:15 PM; food and RV hookups available. Pearl Community Center, on FM 183, 7 mi. south of Purmela; contact info@pearlbluegrass.com. Check web site for show schedule: www.pearlbluegrass.com

ROUND ROCK

3rd Saturday, 2-5 PM, jam at Danny Ray's Music, 12 Chisholm Trail; (512) 671-8663. www.dannyraysmusic.com

SAN ANTONIO

Every Monday, 6:30-8:30 PM, at The Barbecue Station, 1610 NE Loop 410 at Harry Wurzbach exit; (210) 824-9191.

Every Tuesday, 6-8 PM, bluegrass jam (up the hill) and country jam (to the left) at Homewood Residence at Castle Hills, 1207 Jackson Keller Rd.

SCHULENBERG

1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:0-9 PM, jam at Schulenberg RV Park Community Center, 65 N. Kessler Ave. Loretta Baumgarten (979) 743-4388; camp@schulenbergrvpark.com

TOMBALL

Saturday, noon-4 PM, bluegrass jam at Kleb Woods Nature Center and Preserve, 20301 Mueschke Road, Tomball. (281) 373-1777 or (281) 910-4396. tonynema@earthlink.net

Editor's note: this list of jams hasn't been verified in a long time. Call ahead before checking out an unfamiliar jam, to make sure it's still active.

Curbfeeler's Sundries.

Emu jerky, live crawdads, bear traps, jawbreakers, milled flooring, cane fishing poles, pickled eggs, overalls, shotgun shells, sorghum molasses, lottery tickets, barbed wire, cattle guards, beans, kerosene, outboard motor oil, inboard motor oil, harness and tack of all kinds, pecans, chilipetins, jalepeno candy, gingham curtains, lag bolts, carriage bolts, gravel by the cubic yard, weedeater line, surfcasting weights, flaxseed polties.

Rufus Curbfeeler, Prop.
Catwater, Texas

Membership and Advertising Rates

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Merchandise

Compilation CD of member bands, vol 2	\$10
CTBA logo T-shirt (black, white, orange)	\$15
Earl Scruggs design T-shirt	\$20
Mona Lisa design T-shirt	\$20



PINE ISLAND STATION

Gluten-free, artisanal bluegrass.

Janine Carter, mandolin
Gary Carter, bass
Ken Brown, dobro

Brian Meadors, guitar
Scott Sylvester, banjo
www.pineislandstation.com

Available for graduation parties, weddings, divorce parties, whippet races, convenience store openings, pig roasts, county fairs, Grammy award shows, armadillo races, chili cookoffs, toga parties, clambakes, barn raisings, yacht-launching ceremonies, greased-pig contests, bingo sessions, and bluegrass festivals.

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