



Artwork by Emily Isbell

THE GRASSY GAZETTE

Fall 2021

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2021 CTBA ANNUAL MEETING & SHOW

It's time for our **2021 Annual Meeting and Show!**



Each year, the CTBA holds an annual meeting and show. It is a great opportunity to hangout with fellow CTBA members, meet with potential new board members, and enjoy an afternoon of bluegrass (with some wonderful beer, to boot). This year, the

CTBA Annual Meeting will take place on **Sunday, November 14th** at **Independence Brewing Co** (3913 Todd Lane, Austin 78744).

The event will include **live performances** from CTBA members and member-bands, **election of board members** for the 2022-2023 term, and a **raffle** featuring **CTBA swag** and a year-long subscription to **ArtistWorks** online music lessons. And we'll have a table setup where you can **chat**; **renew your membership**; and **purchase raffle tickets**, t-shirts, hats, bandanas and even CTBA -brand hand sanitizer to help keep your hands clean and safe.

Please note this will be an entirely outdoors, open-air event. The CTBA and Independence Brewing request people wear face coverings and respect social distancing. As with last year, we will be simulcasting the event on our **Facebook page** and **YouTube channel**.

We'll have more information soon, in the meantime please keep an eye on **CentralTexasBluegrass.org** and our **Facebook page** for updates.

And **SPEAKING OF WHICH**, now is a great time to **check your membership status**. **Ballots have gone out** for the 2022-2023 Board of Directors election, but any member who **joins or renews before 6PM on November 14th** can cast a ballot for CTBA leadership.

Head on over to **CentralTexasBluegrass.org/Login** to login and check your status. Or go to **CentralTexasBluegrass.org/Join** to join the CTBA today!

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Hello everyone, and welcome to our Fall issue of the Grassy Gazette!

In this issue we have articles discussing the return of Old Settlers Music Festival, our Annual Meeting, elections for the CTBA Board of Directors, our Willa-Beach Scholarship program, and so much more. I hope all members take the time to vote in the CTBA board election - it only takes a minute. I'd also like to encourage all people who are into Bluegrass Music to join up as CTBA members or renew their membership today.

And, by the way, we have a **new President - Chris Jones!** Congratulations, Chris, we look forward to your talents being deployed in the interests of Bluegrass Music!

Mike McKinley, Newsletter Editor

OLD SETTLER'S MUSIC FESTIVAL IS BACK!

by Chris Jones, CTBA President



Old Settler's Music Festival (OSMF) returns this October! OSMF was postponed last year due to COVID-19, but they are back and ready for a festival **October 21st-24th** at their venue in **Dale, TX**. Those attending can expect to hear and see an all-star lineup, including **Sam Bush, the Travelin' McCourys, Della Mae, the Cleverlys, the Po' Ramblin' Boys** and Austin's own **Tony Kamel**.

As in previous years, **the CTBA is proud to sponsor OSMF** and will also be sponsoring the **OSMF Youth Talent Competition**. The competition will be held on **Saturday morning** at the **Bluebonnet Stage** from **10:30AM-1PM**. We encourage you to come out and support these young and talented musicians.

The CTBA will be **on-site during the festival** with a table to say howdy and to reach out to our friends in the bluegrass community. We'll have lots of information and **CTBA swag** for sale. And if you're a **member** or **interested in becoming one**, feel free to **join** or **renew** your membership right there!

If you are a CTBA member interested in **volunteering** at OSMF, please get in touch with us at CTBA@CentralTexasBluegrass.org.

OSMF has announced COVID-19 health and safety protocols will be in place during the festival, for information on this or updates re: lineup, tickets, volunteer opportunities, etc please visit the [OSMF website](#). You can also connect with OSMF on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



The CTBA is excited to announce our **2021 Willa Beach-Porter Scholarship recipients!**

Izaak Mora, age 15, banjo
Round Rock, TX

Chris Cheek, age 20, guitar
Austin, TX

Martina Stecklein, age 15, mandolin
Sugar Land, TX

Congratulations to all of the recipients!!!

In lieu of bluegrass camps, recipients will be participating in a **year-long** program studying with master musicians through **ArtistWorks**. This year's recipients will be working with Noam Pikelny (banjo), Bryan Sutton (guitar) and Sierra Hull (Mandolin). We are incredibly grateful to **ArtistWorks**, they have been an invaluable partner in keeping our scholarship program viable the past two years.

For more information about how you can study with the masters, visit **ArtistWorks.com**.



IBMA AWARDS SHOW

In September, the **International Bluegrass Music Association** (IBMA), presented its **31st Annual Awards Show** at their *World Of Bluegrass* convention in Raleigh, NC, hosted by the Infamous Stringdusters.



The IBMA inducted new members into their **Hall of Honor**, including **Alison Krauss** and the **Stoneman Family**. IBMA members voted for the winners in numerous categories. Some notable moments included a performance by the Stoneman Family and **IBMA Artist of the Year Billy Strings!**

Here's a list of all of the **winners and inductees**; you can stream the entire awards show **here**.

ALAN MUNDE AWARDED STEVE MARTIN BANJO PRIZE



BREAKING NEWS: Long-time Central Texan, friend of the CTBA, and legendary banjo player **Alan Munde** has received the prestigious **Steve Martin Banjo Prize**, awarded by the Freshgrass Foundation and Compass Records for excellence in Bluegrass music and banjo performance.

Alan has been playing, recording, and teaching banjo for the entire modern Bluegrass era. He first emerged in Jimmy Martin's band in the late 60s, and went on to play in the Flying Burrito Brothers and Country Gazette. He has released a slew of excellent recordings under his own name and with others.

Alan joined the faculty of South Plains College, where he taught in the Bluegrass program that produced many renowned bluegrass players that have had a great impact on the industry and its music. Currently, Alan is in great demand as an educator and performer at concerts, banjo camps, and seminars. Until recently, Alan has lived in Wimberly; we have been so fortunate to see and hear him locally.

Congratulations to the one and only Alan Munde for this richly deserved accolade and the \$25,000 dollar prize that accompanies it. No one deserves this honor more!

NEW JAM AT SUDS MONKEY BREWERY



Come one! Come all! To the newest Austin area bluegrass jam at **Suds Monkey Brewery and Pizzeria** (12024 US-290, Austin 78737)! Bring your instrument, your children and your dog, or just you - all are welcome! This friendly jam is held weekly on **Sundays from 12:00-3:00** in the breezy, open-air space of Suds Monkey's new location between Austin and

Dripping Springs. The spacious taproom lined with two-story garage doors opens to the adjoining beer garden, which gives the indoors an outdoor feel.

This jam is led by long-time Austin musician and jammer, **Brian Byrwa**, who welcomes beginners and professionals alike into the circle. Since the first jam in early August, we have had pickers bring a variety of instruments, including guitars, dobros, basses, fiddles, mandolins, a banjo and even a harmonica! You can also expect to see families and dogs, tables and couches, a pool table and a foosball table. Venturing out into the beer garden, you will find picnic tables, shady live oaks and beautiful murals of Mr. Suds Monkey himself, not to mention a gaga ball court and a swing for the kids!

For more information, check out Suds Monkey's **Facebook page** or email CTBA board member and secretary, **Natalie Turner**.

CTBA BUSINESS MEMBERS

The CTBA is proud to have the following businesses as members, please consider supporting them as they support Bluegrass in Central Texas!

Barton Springs Mill
BartonSpringsMill.com

Country Guitar Online
CountryGuitarOnline.com

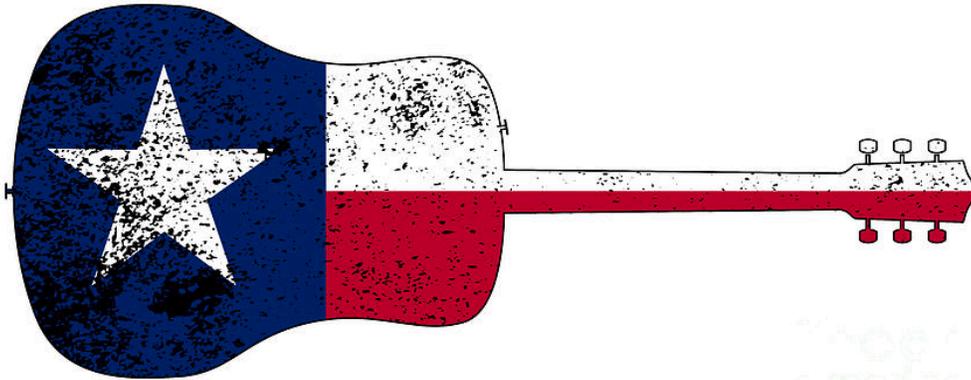
Heart & Hands Massage

St. Elmo Brewing Company
StElmoBrewing.com

Texas Bluegrass Music/Salmon Lake Park
TXBluegrassMusic.com

Vista Brewing
VistaBrewing.com

If you and your business are interested in becoming a part of the CTBA, please head on over to CentralTexasBluegrass.org/Join or reach out at CTBA@CentralTexasBluegrass.org.



Time to celebrate the great stories that have been passed down through the years and preserved in our heritage... Especially the morbid and shocking stories. Welcome to...

MIKE'S CHAMBER OF BLUEGRASS HORRORS

In this issue of the Chamber of Bluegrass Horrors, we will once again visit a Bluegrass song with a melancholy lyric, "The Tragic Romance." First recorded by Cowboy Copus in 1945, this song has sold a lot of beer. Played and recorded by some great bluegrass type artists including Doc Watson, the Stanley Brothers, Mac Wiseman, and Grandpa Jones, it's a familiar tale, crafted from an earlier song, "After The Ball," a somewhat droll broadside that was popular 50 years earlier. In "The Tragic Romance," the protagonist thinks his girl is two-timing him, but she was kissing her brother. Unaware of this fact, our "hero" leaves town to wander in sorrow and then she dies of a broken heart. This song is on Rolling Stone's list of the 44 saddest country songs.

Nestled in the heart of the Tennessee Hills
Midst peaceful pines, midst the rocks and the rills
There stands my old homestead of long long ago
It brings back fond memories of the girl I loved so
I'll tell you the reason why I left her there
To roam this old world with its sorrow and care
I saw her one night in the arms of a man hugging and kissing as two lovers
can
I went to my home with a heart full of woe packed my belongings
determined to go

For many long years this old world I did roam
With thoughts of my darling, my sweetheart, my home
While dining one day in a little country town
A stranger walked in and he chanced to sit down
While talking of loved ones I happened to find
That his sister was that old sweetheart of mine
When he heard my story to me then he said
The one you left there has a long time been dead
She waited so long for the day you'd return
And why you had left her she never did learn
Now I was the one who you saw that fatal night
Wrapped in the arms of my sister so tight
She loved you so dearly but you broke her heart
So Stranger, from her ever more you must part

Check out Doc Watson's version [here](#).

Central Texas Bluegrass | P.O. Box 9816, Austin, TX 78766-0816

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