



Artwork by Emily Isbell

THE GRASSY GAZETTE

Summer 2022

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hey y'all...it's hot. It's...just so hot. So, so hot out there. Not too hot to jam, in my opinion, but hey I'm barely in my forties (I swear). Much like the blistering, punishing heat of the sun, Bluegrass is raging across Central Texas. The CTBA Sunday Jam at Oskar Blues is going great. We had a really, truly wonderful CTBA Memorial Fest last month. And the CTBA Band Scramble & Garage Sale is back in a matter of days! To say nothing of the growing number of Bluegrass shows and jams sprouting up in the area, at least one for every day

of the week. So raise a beer, a lemonade, an iced coffee, an ice cream cone, whatever you have at hand to Summer in Central Texas, with all the Bluegrass we can stand.

Jon Lundbom

President, Central Texas Bluegrass Association

CTBA MEMORIAL FEST RECAP



AUSTIN, TX

CTBA Memorial Fest 2022 was held at **Oskar Blues Austin** on **Sunday, June 5th**. And it was an **absolute blast!** We had performances from CTBA members including **Simon Waxman, Chelsea Burns, Chris Melas, Celebrindal Robers,** and **Chip Bach** PLUS a headlining set from CTBA member-band **Randy Collier & Grassland**.

We **sold CTBA merch**, we signed up a bunch of **new CTBA members**, we even managed to squeeze in the June meeting of the CTBA Board of Directors! And we **jammed**, oh boy. We had three if not four really solid jam circles going, which was an absolute delight. Such a wonderful afternoon **spending time with our friends and loved ones** remembering the **'grassers who came before us**. See y'all next year!





CTBA BAND SCRAMBLE & GARAGE SALE

We'll see you on July 10th!



The **CTBA Band Scramble & Garage Sale** - hosted by Central Texas Bluegrass luminary Mr. **Eddie Collins** - is just days away! Please join us at **Oskar Blues Austin** on **Sunday, July 10th**, to perform for our friends and raise some money for Bluegrass.

What, you say, is a band scramble? Musicians put their **names in hats** by instrument (guitar, fiddle, banjo, bass, etc...). Names are **drawn to form bands**. Bands have **an hour to choose and rehearse songs**. And then everyone **performs!** It is a **BLAST**, and we are thrilled to get it back up and running.

Per tradition, we will also have an **assortment of instruments** and **music-related merchandise** available for sale and for auction at our **Garage Sale**.

Here's the schedule:

2PM Garage Sale opens
3PM Draw names, form bands
3-4PM Rehearsal
4-6PM Performances!

See y'all on the 10th!

ST. ELMO BREWING COMPANY

CTBA BUSINESS MEMBER FEATURE

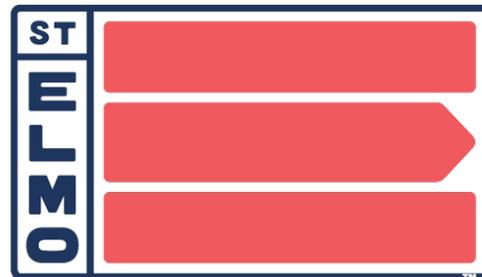
By Jon Lundbom



When **Bryan Winslow** would travel to Colorado, visiting brewpubs, he loved just how many breweries featured live bluegrass. It became a goal, that **if he ever opened a brewery, it was going to have bluegrass.**

Bryan fell in love with beer first as a drinker, then as a home brewer, then as a beer professional at Austin Beerworks. He and **Tim Bullock** started at the bottom of the totem pole, canning and kegging beer every day for two years. Bryan slowly rose through the ranks, up through cellar operations, into the brewhouse, all the way to head of production. In his years at Austin Beerworks, Bryan held every single brewery production job during a period of tremendous growth, with the liberty and urgency to figure stuff out. But **his goal was always to open his own brewery.**

And lo, Bryan and Tim opened **St. Elmo Brewing Company** in **November of 2016.** For their grand opening, **Bryan wanted bluegrass.** A friend put him in touch with **Warren Hood**, who put him in touch with Grammy-nominated, recently-departed Austinite **Kym Warner.** Kym brought some 'GRASS, to say the least, and the opening was a huge success. **St. Elmo has been hosting Thursday bluegrass ever since.**



The CTBA is proud to count St. Elmo Brewing as a business member and thanks them for their years in support of the Central Texas Bluegrass community. **Swing by St. Elmo (440 E St Elmo Rd, Austin 78745) and grab a beer sometime!**

CTBA WILLA BEACH-PORTER SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE



The CTBA is thrilled to announce we have **awarded two scholarships** so far this year!

First off, the CTBA is proud to announce we will be sending CTBA member **Mr. Chris Melas** (most recently seen performing at Memorial Fest) to **Camp Bluegrass** in Levelland, TX!

And, secondly, we have awarded our first **ArtistWorks** scholarship of the year to bassist extraordinaire (and CTBA member) **Mr. Kyle Kline**.

Many congratulations to Chris and to Kyle. And a reminder that (a) we still have **ArtistWorks scholarships available** to any TX resident and (b) the CTBA Willa Beach-Porter Scholarship Program would love to **send any TX resident aged 12-18 to a (bluegrass-related) music camp!** If you or your kids are interested in applying, please head on over to **CentralTexasBluegrass.org/Scholarship** and apply today.



MOPAC TRAFFIC JAMS

CTBA MEMBER-BAND FEATURE

MoPac Traffic Jams is an artsy, Austin-wired, **Americana Folk-Grass** band comprised of a group of musicians who really enjoy playing music and traveling to entertain family, fans and audiences around Central Texas - regardless of the traffic. MoPac Traffic Jams performs original and traditional music in addition to homegrown cover tunes from artists ranging from Johnny Cash to Amy Winehouse to John Prine and even the Goo Goo Dolls.

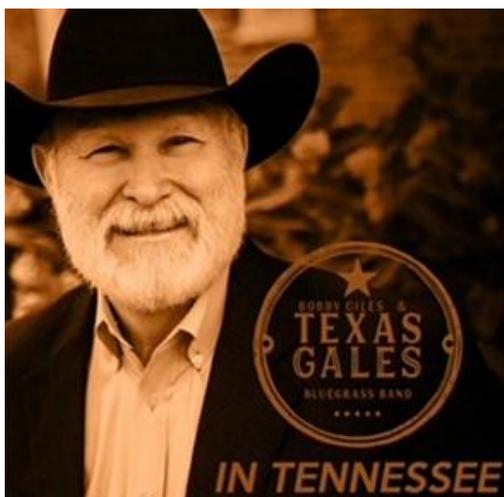


The band is comprised of an eclectic group of musicians, young and old(er). And everybody sings! At its core is the Cartwright family: **Bob Cartwright**, mandolin; **Camille Hilla** (nee Cartwright), guitar; **Kevin Cartwright**, guitar and cajon - a South American box-shaped percussion instrument. Adding that banjo kick grassroots music is known for is nationally-renowned recording artist and Jazz musician (not to mention CTBA President) **Jon Lundbom**, who has more than a dozen studio albums to his credit, amongst a myriad of other musical accomplishments. New Orleans native and well-known Austin musician **Fred Spence** holds down the low end on upright bass. According to Bob, "We have fun, keep things fresh, come up with a different genres, try different tunes, and as a result, we have enjoyed playing together for the last three years."

Many thanks to MoPac Traffic Jams for being a member of the CTBA! For more information, contact Bob at bob.cartwright@sbcglobal.net. And you can check out all of the CTBA member-bands over at CentralTexasBluegrass.org/Bands.

TEXAS GALES A-GUSTIN' BLUEGRASSER YOU SHOULD KNOW ("BUSK"): BOBBY GILES

Profile by Julian Root



Bobby Giles is not your typical bluegrass singer. He did not grow up in Southern Appalachia on the sounds of Bill Monroe. Bobby grew up in Amarillo, on the sounds of Creedence Clearwater Revival and other rock acts.

One day in 1961, his grandpa announced that he was taking young Bobby to a "hillbilly music show" at the local fairgrounds. Bobby can't recall who it was, but he can still remember the rush he felt first hearing the driving sounds of what he came to learn was

bluegrass music.

“What grabbed me was that guitar man and the way he punched through those chords! I knew I had to go home and practice so that I could make my guitar do that,” Bobby recalls.

Well, he’s certainly learned how to punch through those chords and then some!

Invoking a singularly Texan storytelling spirit, Bobby has been writing and performing his own songs for a number of years. Now based in Dallas, Bobby and his band, Texas Gales, are anticipating the release of “Music in Life.”

After years of being rejected by the slick suits on Nashville’s music row, Bobby finally caught a break when bluegrass fiddler/producer titan Jim VanCleve chanced to return a cold call Bobby made, after getting his number from a friend.

“Oh, well, you know... we talked for about thirty seconds and felt like we had been friends for years,” Bobby warmly remembers. “He heard a few of my songs, and told me he wanted to produce and play on my record.” That’s akin to hitting the bluegrass lottery. To sweeten the deal, dobro whiz Rob Ickes agreed to play on the record.



CTBA member Lenny Nichols is also playing bass with Bobby, who appreciates Lenny’s diligence and willingness to “do something other than the same old stuff. Lenny’s a very fast study...I call him an unconventional bass player in an unconventional band!”

Bobby was also a friend and frequent partner in music to the late Willa Beach-Porter, in whose honor the CTBA named its bluegrass scholarship program. He wrote “Miss Porter,” which is a touching ballad about the life of his friend and the considerable void her departure left in his life, as well as the Texas bluegrass scene at large.

“Who’s gonna play that fiddle, who’s gonna sing Steel Rails? / Who’s gonna solve the riddle, only Miss Porter can tell.”

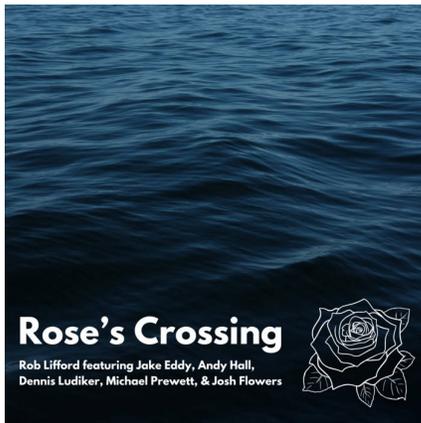
Through it all, Bobby maintains an irresistibly warm and charismatic presence. When he sings, it's obvious that he's as interested in the listener as he is in the story in his song. His unadulterated joy is on full display in his recently produced video for "In Tennessee," the first single on "Music in Life."

Be sure to catch Bobby Giles & Texas Gales at the Bluegrass Heritage Foundation's Bloomin' Bluegrass Festival in October!

[Check out the new music video from BG & TG "In Tennessee" here!](#)

NEW MUSIC FROM ROB LIFFORD

by Jon Lundbom



Extraordinary friend (and Lifetime Member) of the CTBA **Mr. Rob Lifford** has a new single out! Rob has released "**Rose's Crossing**," a new track featuring a world-class lineup of pickers. The recording showcases **Jake B. Eddy** (Becky Buller Band), **Andy Hall** (Infamous Stringdusters), **Dennis Lloyd Ludiker** (Asleep at the Wheel), **Michael Prewitt** (Special Consensus), and **Josh Flowers** (Motenko). And it is **titled in honor of Rob's Grandmother.**

"**Roses's Crossing**" is available **exclusively on BandCamp** for the time being, so why not swing on over, give a listen, and **kick in a dollar or two for the cause?** It will be released on **all streaming platforms August 1st.**

Listen to Rob's new single here:

RobLifford.BandCamp.com/Track/Roses-Crossing.

Congrats, Rob!!!

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

Central Machine Works

CMWBrewery.com

Country Guitar Online

CountryGuitarOnline.com

Heart & Hands Massage

Madrone Coffee Co.
MadroneMountainCoffee.com

Old Settler's Music Fest
OldSettlersMusicFest.org

St. Elmo Brewing Company
StElmoBrewing.com

Texas Bluegrass Music
TXBluegrassMusic.com

Vista Brewing
VistaBrewing.com

Woodtone Strings
WoodtoneStrings.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.



'Possum with the WiFi Password ...and other juxtapositions *by your editor, Julian Root*

"If you're ever somewhere and you hear some maniac playing minor thirds on a mandolin against an E major chord on guitar...run. It's bad ecology, man. Go find people playing major thirds on a piano or something. That's not a dangerous instrument. Not like the mandolin. No. Never. Mandolins and banjos are evil. I was right all of the time. Bluegrass music is the music of PAN!"--John Fahey

Not long ago, a bluegrass gig needed a guitar picker. A guitar picker was selected; he turned the gig down. "I'm sorry, but I'm in a fight with bluegrass right now." Fahey, intrepid six-string rogue of worldwide obscurity, understood this...

He compiled a collection of his own prose, ramblings, accounts and alibis. "How Bluegrass Music Destroyed My Life" he called it.

Ahh... We all need an occasional break from the circle. Until we meet again, dear reader, here's to major thirds on a piano... Or something.

