



Artwork by Emily Isbell

THE GRASSY GAZETTE

Winter 2022

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Y'all, the state of the union is strong! 2022 has really been a wonderful year for the CTBA. Our **membership is up**. We had a **really great year, financially**. We designed and sold a **ton of merch**. We managed to hold **three fantastic events** - in person, even! We awarded **doodles of scholarships**. And, most importantly (in my opinion, at least), we **jammed every single**



Sunday.

I don't have to tell y'all it's been a wild few years. This past year really felt like a return to form, a return to the tradition and practices of the CTBA. I feel a genuine responsibility helming this forty-three year-old organization, and I hope to continue to do well by you, the membership. I am thrilled to have had such a good year, and I'm optimistic about the future. **I'll see y'all out there in 2023!**

*Jon Lundbom
President, Central Texas Bluegrass Association*

CTBA 2022 ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

The CTBA closed out 2022 in typical fashion, with our **Annual Meeting and Show!** We held this year's at **Suds Monkey Brewing Co.** in southwest Austin, and let me tell you what it was an absolute blast.

There was **jamming**:



There was brand-new **CTBA merch** available for sale, and a **raffle**, too:



And we had two spectacular performances, one from a **CTBA Youth Band**

led by **Izaak Mora** (not sure how **Eddie Collins** got in there...) and another from the band with the best name ever **Shred Lasso** (featuring departing CTBA board member **Noah Jeffries**):



All in all, it was a truly wonderful afternoon. We raised over **\$500** for the CTBA, signed up a **bunch of new members**, and brought some **bluegrass** to the masses. Many thanks for a wonderful 2022, and here's to a great 2023!

CTBA 2023-2024 BOARD ELECTION RESULTS



Speaking of the Annual Meeting, we also announced the results of the **2023-2024 CTBA Board of Directors election!** We had five candidates running for five seats, and - somewhat predictably - they were all elected to a two-year term. Welcome back to **Natalie Turner, Cody Mabe, Evan Hall**, and

Celebrindal Roberts. And a warm welcome to our newest board member, **Chelsea Burns**. Thanks to all for your willingness to help run the Central Texas Bluegrass Association!

CHELSEA BURNS

MEET YOUR NEWEST CTBA BOARD MEMBER



According to rumor, Chelsea is the only known **bluegrass accordionist*** in Central Texas. When she's not "picking," she **teaches music theory at University of Texas** and **researches Latin American modernist music**. She's excited to be part of the bluegrass community here and looks forward to lots of shows and jamming in 2023.

If you see Chelsea out in the wild, **please congratulate her** on joining the CTBA Board of Directors!

**Two notes to grumbling purists from your Editor: 1) From ample experience, I assure you that Chelsea plays the melodies to complex tunes with the accuracy and panache of any fiddler. 2) Sally Ann Forrester.*

**One note from your President: Mark Johnson is another excellent bluegrass accordionist, if only an occasional and part-time Austinite.*

NOAH JEFFRIES

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

by Jon Lundbom, CTBA President



Long-time CTBA Board Member Mr. **Noah Jeffries** (of Austin's own **Milkdrive** and **The Deer**) elected to step down following his 2020-2022 term. What can I say about Noah? I'd lead with two things:

(1) Noah is one of the finest musicians I've had the pleasure of performing with. Years ago, a friend described a fellow musician as having "big ears," the ability to fully listen and respond in the moment. Aside from all the technical mastery, man does Noah have some big ears. He is an absolute joy to share the stage with.

(2) In my time on the CTBA Board of Directors, I haven't worked with a single person more supportive of the CTBA than Noah. Every single time Noah came across a problem that needed solving, he would say "OK" and take care of it. No further conversation, no arguments, no need for follow-up. The CTBA is a volunteer organization; we are able to accomplish as much as our membership and leadership dedicates themselves to accomplishing. Noah has been a stunning exemplar of that dedication.

Noah, **thank you for your many years of service to the CTBA**. You don't have to be on the board anymore (you've done your time!), but please don't be a stranger.

CTBA WILLA BEACH-PORTER SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

The CTBA is proud to announce **we have awarded two more ArtistWorks scholarships** for 2022!

Congratulations to **Amber Milburn** of Bryan, Texas! Amber is came to **mandolin** in adulthood and is thrilled to study with the **world-class instructors** at **ArtistWorks** for a year.

And congratulations to **Jim Trainer!** Jim is fixture on Austin's bluegrass scene, a **wonderful bass player** looking forward to refining his talents even further.



If you and/or some young student in your life is interested in a **scholarship to further your musical education**, head on over to **CentralTexasBluegrass.org/Scholarship** and apply today!



BUSK*: DAVID MOSHER

**BLUEGRASSER YOU SHOULD KNOW*

by Julian Root, Newsletter Editor

David Mosher does not fit the standard mold of recently arrived bluegrass in Central Texas. He's recently hit the scene with over thirty years of full time professional experience in bluegrass and beyond. An accomplished writer and performer of music, David is also a seasoned engineer and producer. David maintains a passion for photography and birding.

Born in Boston, David spent his early years in the Northeast, before moving to Ann Arbor, Michigan at 15. His formative years as a musician were spent

in that area. Truly a working musician's musician, he spent decades playing 200+ shows yearly, and has recorded on hundreds of albums, playing bluegrass and much more.



There's probably not a stringed instrument David wouldn't feel at home on, but he tells this reporter that he's predominantly a guitarist, fiddler, and mandolinist. A member of one of bluegrass music's longest running ensembles—Ann Arbor's RFD Boys—David has also toured extensively as a guitar player for John Reischman and Tammy Fassaert.

Recently, David reconnected with his high school sweetheart. After forty years apart, they rediscovered their old love and are now happily married. Their courtship spanned decades; their marriage now crosses state lines. The couple bounces between Michigan and Central Texas—but David is more excited (rightly so!) about the music scene here.

David has not yet committed himself to any long-term music projects here, but he is excited about being a newcomer on a hot scene like ours. "It's more fun to be the new kid than the old guy," laughs the affable picker. He's looking forward to gigging and—especially—jamming with new friends. "That's my favorite place to be, playing with other people. When I don't know what's going to happen next."

We don't know what's going to happen next, either. But we sure are thrilled to have David along to find out!

Learn more (and/or say howdy) at DavidMosherMusic.com.

STEEP CANYON RANGERS AT OSKAR BLUES RECAP

by Natalie Turner, CTBA Vice President

The **Steep Canyon Rangers** rocked our grassy socks off at their show on November 18th at the **Oskar Blues Brewery Taproom!** The Grammy-winning band from Asheville brought their on-point picking and lively energy. We enjoyed SCR classics like "Be Still Moses" as well as covers like "Feeling Good Again" by Texas' own Robert Earl Keen. We were even treated to a song featuring banjo player Graham Sharp on the



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harmonica, and one with drummer Mike Ashworth on the slide guitar.

The Rangers played with their newest member, **Aaron Burdett**, who replaced founding member **Woody Platt** in August. Burdett graced us with his superb guitar playing and vocals. Their show was presented in conjunction with the **Can'd Aid Foundation**, an organization that distributes water, provides underserved youth with opportunities in music, and protects and restores the environment.

Catch the Rangers the **next time they come to Austin in May!** They'll be playing two nights with their buddies **Steve Martin** and **Martin Short** at the **Bass Concert Hall**.

THE STEELDRIVERS ARE COMING TO CENTRAL TEXAS



Gig alert! Head's up, y'all, **The SteelDrivers** are coming to Central Texas in February. And CTBA member-band **The Hillsiders** will be opening! **Saturday, February 18th** at **Buck's Backyard** in Buda. **Tickets are available now.**

THE HILLSIDERS

CTBA MEMBER-BAND FEATURE



And - speak of the devil -**The Hillsiders** are the this quarter's **featured CTBA Member-Band!**

From the shade of Austin's live oak trees, bustling coffee shops, and sloping backyards, four musicians paved their creative path playing the music they love. Every string played and note sung has prepared them for the four-piece band they are now. **The Hillsiders** have brought their respective talents to create a quartet able to heartily portion sweet melodies and hard-driving breakdowns.

What started as four bluegrass pals putting a last-minute band together would soon turn into **The Hillsiders**. Merging old-time and bluegrass genres, they hold firm in their esteem for songs and musical styles that came long before them. With influences including Ralph Stanley, Doc Watson and Larry Sparks, **The Hillsiders** can't help but put their own musical stamp on songs of both old and new. Forming the band is **Andi Huff** (fiddle), **Devon Canady** (guitar), **Hunter Hollingsworth** (mandolin) and the Grammy-nominated **Dom Fisher** (upright bass).

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

Oskar Blues Austin

Oskarblues.com/location/austin-tx-oskar-blues-taproom/

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*

"Bringing people together" is, by your editor's estimation, one of the most cliched benefits of playing music with other people. Feel-good documentaries about bluegrass and other 'folk' musics happily tout this old platitude with the

predictability of a G run between verses.

Ah, but what for that element of truth behind all cliches? Yes, the ironically hackneyed adage applies here. In this communique, we will examine a classic of the bluegrass genre which predates bluegrass by a hundred years.

Last week marked the 160th anniversary of one of history's most powerful examples of that truth. Several weeks after the bloody Battle of Fredericksburg (December 13, 1862), over 150,000 troops from both armies camped on opposite sides of the Rappahannock, still licking their wounds from the battle weeks prior. As was customary, twilight brought on the fleeting moments of sentimentality afforded to these soldiers—letters were penned, books were read, reflections were pondered. Music was also played. On one particular evening, the night ended with a poignant rendition by the Union band of "Home, Sweet Home," a cherished song

of the period. Numerous accounts indicate the bands of all regiments—from both sides of the river—were quickly playing along.

After the final refrain, jubilant cheers burst forth from all parties. Hats were tossed. Expressions of joy, unencumbered by differences in uniform, cast across the river in a two way avenue of good will. In the words of Frank Mixson, a private in the 1st South Carolina Volunteers, “had there not been a river between them, the two armies would have met face to face, shaken hands, and ended the war on the spot.”

