



Artwork by Emily Isbell

THE GRASSY GAZETTE

Spring 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letter from the President• CTBA 2023 Memorial Fest - Save the Date• Quick Sunday Jam Update• CTBA Scholarship Update• Old Settlers Music Fest 2023• OSMF Radio Coffee & Beer Takeover | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Billy Strings Pops Into Radio• Rod Moag, in Memorium• Laz'Grass! New Bluegrass Night at Lazarus Brewing 2• CTBA Business Members• 'Possum with the WiFi Password |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Y'all, I will keep it brief.

I am thrilled - THRILLED! - that the CTBA membership and Board of Directors have entrusted me to lead this organization into 2023. I take the responsibility seriously. I value the organization's history and traditions; I understand the need for us to grow and thrive as we move toward our fifth (!!!) decade.



I look forward to a wonderful 2023 full of jamming and fellowship and, well, Bluegrass. Lots of Bluegrass! Our Sunday jam at **Oskar Blues Austin** is thriving, and our first event of the year will be **Memorial Fest** on **Sunday, June 4th** - mark your calendars!

I'll see y'all out there, feel free to drop me a line anytime at
President@CentralTexasBluegrass.org.

Jon Lundbom, President, CTBA

CTBA 2023 MEMORIAL FEST

SAVE THE DATE!

As I said, heads' up: **CTBA Memorial Fest 2023** will be held at **Oskar Blues Austin** on **Sunday, June 4th!**

We'll have a slightly earlier jam followed by performances from CTBA members and member-bands. Details to come, but we'll have the **CTBA Sunday bluegrass jam at 1PM** (early!) followed by solo and duo performances from **CTBA members**. And we'll cap the afternoon off with a headlining performance from CTBA member-band **The Hillsiders** at 5PM!



Mark your calendars, details to come!

QUICK SUNDAY JAM UPDATE

| BLUEGRASS JAMS | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday, April 1 | Bluegrass Pick and Jam (ColdSpring) |
| 3:00pm | Beginner-Intermediate Group (BIG) Jam |
| Sunday, April 2 | 11:30am - Oak Monkey Bluegrass Jam (Dripping Springs) |
| 3:00pm | CTBA Sunday Bluegrass Jam |
| Monday, April 3 | 2:00pm - 4000 Station Jam (SA) |
| 6:30pm | Cypress Bluegrass Jam |
| Tuesday, April 4 | 6:30pm - Manchaca Baptist Church Bluegrass Jam |
| Friday, April 7 | Pearl Bluegrass |
| 6:00pm | Bluegrass Jam (Lubbock) |
| Saturday, April 8 | Pearl Bluegrass |
| 6:00pm | Bluegrass Pick and Jam (ColdSpring) |
| 11:00am | Roanoke Bluegrass Bluegrass Jam |

And speaking of **Oskar Blues** and heads' up there is **NO SUNDAY JAM ON APRIL 16TH**. Check out the **Jam Calendar** at **CentralTexasBluegrass.org/Bluegrass-Jams** to find some other fun jams and stay on top of the scene here in Central Texas!

CTBA WILLA BEACH-PORTER SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

Reminder that we are currently accepting applications for **2023 CTBA Willa Beach-Porter Scholarships!**



We have **three scholarship opportunities** available right now:

(1) The **CTBA Willa Beach-Porter Scholarship** program provides **scholarship plus room and board** to **bluegrass-related music camps** for **any Texas resident aged 12-18**.

(2) The CTBA and **ArtistWorks** are offering a number of **online scholarships**. Each online scholarship recipient will receive a **one-year ArtistWorks membership** to the study track of their choice from the 30+ courses offered through ArtistWorks. ArtistWorks scholarships are available to **any Texas resident aged 12 years or older** (no age limit).



And (3) the CTBA has partnered with **Camp Bluegrass** to send one aspiring bluegrass student from Central Texas to Camp Bluegrass 2023 in **Levelland, TX**, to be held **July 16th-21st**. This scholarship is available to **any Texas resident aged 12 years or older** (no age limit).



If you or someone you know is interested in a scholarship, head on over to **CentralTexasBluegrass.org/Scholarship** and apply today!

OLD SETTLERS MUSIC FEST 2023

"The Old Settler's Music Festival, four days of Americana bands...fosters a community spirit hard to find in the era of mega-festivals."

– The New York Times

We're just **two weeks** out from Central Texas' premier roots and bluegrass music festival! This year promises a return to the folksy spirit of yesteryear's festivals, with **more affordable admissions** and even a **BYOB policy** at the entrance.



We're looking forward to **Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway, Twisted Pine, Tommy Emmanuel, The Brothers Comatose**, and many more bands and artists from OSMF's wonderfully eclectic lineup. Of course, the real highlight is the guaranteed **late night campground jams** with picking' buddies new and old.

Oh, and did we mention affordable? In fact, OSMF is pleased to offer **CTBA members** (that's you!) **an exclusive discount**. When you purchase your passes at OldSettlersMusicFest.org/Tickets, use **promo code SPRING** for a **deep discount**. Hurry - this offer only valid for a very limited time!

OSMF TAKEOVER AT RADIO COFFEE & BEER

And speaking of Old Settlers, the **Old Settlers Music Festival** is taking over this Monday's Bluegrass Night at **Radio Coffee & Beer!**

Join the #OSMF crew at Radio on **Monday, April 10th**, from **7-10PM**. **The Lost Pines** will be playing, and #OSMF will be on-hand **selling tickets** to the festival. And you'll be able to **pick up your #OSMF tickets** pre-fest so you can **skip the check-in line**. We'll see you there!



BILLY STRINGS POPS INTO RADIO

By Chelsea Burns, CTBA Secretary

And speaking of Radio...

On Monday, February 14, Austin bluegrass fans gathered at **Radio Coffee & Beer** for what was expected to be another great Monday night of music from local luminaries **Tony Kamel**, **Kym Warner**, **Luke Bulla**, and **Andrew Pressman**. That it was. And then someone else showed up, too: Grammy-winner **Billy Strings**, one of the fastest guns and biggest names in bluegrass today!



(Nice CTBA hat it the foreground....CentralTexasBluegrass.org/Store)

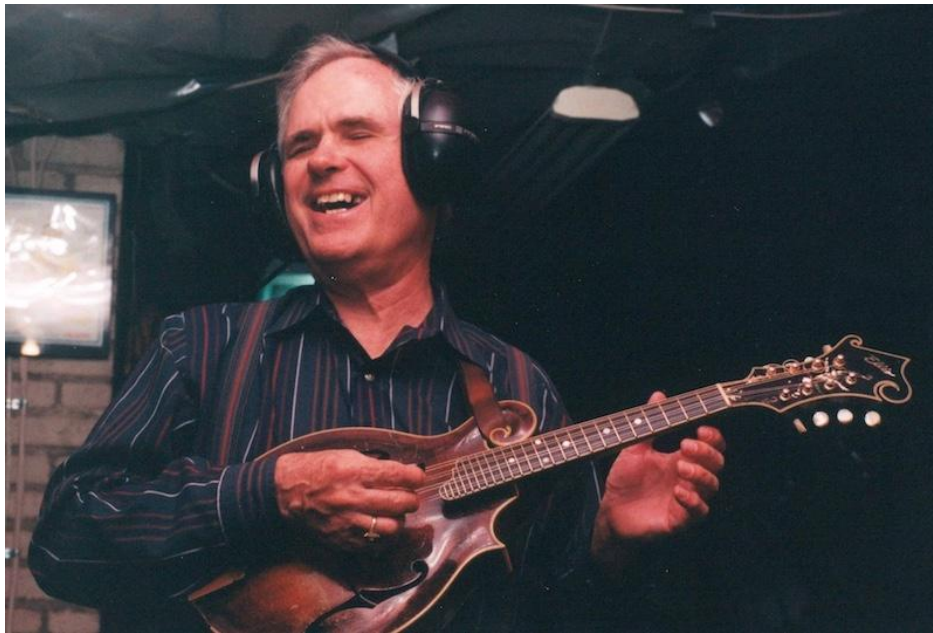
Without fanfare or advanced notice, Billy appeared beside the stage before the close of the second set. As excitement filled the audience, he joined the group for a final, blistering set, playing originals, old chestnuts, and some unexpected classics, like “Dooley” and “Take a Whiff on Me.” The audience, which grew throughout the evening as attendees texted their friends and posted online about the surprise guest, was more than delighted.

Thanks for swinging by, Billy!

ROD MOAG, IN MEMORIAM

By Eddie Collins

A long-time friend and supporter of the Central Texas Bluegrass scene, Rod Moag, passed away at age 86 on January 19, 2023. Rod was a giant in the music and academic worlds, defying his diminutive stature. Rod honed his music talents on piano, guitar, mandolin and fiddle, as a youngster while attending the school for the blind in his home state of New York. He performed regularly on local radio as a teenager and eventually became known as the Pickin'-Singin' Professor—a nod to combining his academic career with his love of music. A Fulbright Scholar in languages, Rod began his teaching career at UT Austin in 1981, founding the program on the Asian dialect of Malayalam.



Rod Moag was heard on community radio's KOOP (91.7 FM) since its inception, hosting his weekly “Country, Swing and Rockabilly Jamboree” show. He also was one of the first rotating DJs on the station's “Strictly Bluegrass” show, which still airs on Sundays from 10 AM to 12 noon. A career highlight was his 2000 CD, “Ah-Haa! Goes Grass,” where Moag assembled an all-star bluegrass group of pickers to play numbers from the Bob Wills catalog. Rod had an encyclopedic knowledge of both genres. He tirelessly promoted the music through his radio show and live performances,

often inviting other performers to share the airwaves or stage with him. There is so much to his life that we can't address here. A wonderful in-depth tribute piece appeared in the Austin Chronicle. It was written by his son, Jeff Moag and can be found [here](#).

It would be impossible to list all of the lives Rod touched in our local bluegrass community. There have been many nice postings on social media. Here are just a few brief memories I've gathered from some who knew him. I'll start: Rod was the first "real" musician I met and performed with upon moving to Austin in 1992. He often had me as a guest on his show and I enjoyed watching him "work the board," blaming the gremlins in the room should he accidentally hit a wrong button, or play a different cut than the one he intended. He did a lot to promote the music we love and support the artists who perform it.



Ted Branson: Rod was my radio mentor and brought me to KOOP sixteen years ago. I listened to his Thursday morning show "Country Swing & Rockabilly Jamboree" religiously before deciding I had to meet him...we hit it off and were sidekicks in the studio ... One day he said, "Ted, have you considered having yer own show?" He helped me come up with the name and format of Austin's first Texas Music Radio show, "Under the X in Texas" on December 17th, 2022. KOOP honored Rod by naming Studio 1 "Rod Moag Studio."

Jerry Rabun: Our group, Geezer Grass, so named because the

average age of our band members was 70 years old with Rod being the oldest, had its first monthly performance in 2012 in Elgin at an assisted living center. For six years we played both there and a center in Taylor every month. I was on guitar alongside Rod on mandolin. With our bandmates, Art Horan (banjo), Marsha Corierra (bass) and Jim Shaffer (fiddle), we'd work out a set list to perform for each packed house and had a ton of fun doing it. We would then enjoy each others company at our post performance pig-outs. During this period, Rod invited me to be a guest DJ on his radio show. He would let me pick a theme and some music tracks as part of his show. Other times I brought visiting musicians to appear on his show. Rod turned out to be a real friend who I will never forget.

Dan Foster: Rod will always be among the most amazing humans many of us will ever encounter. An illustrious polyglot, world traveler, scholar, teacher, expert country-music picker and singer, fearless, joyful, loving parent, mentor, and friend. I met Rod soon after he came to Austin in 1981.

He was a frequent guest on the Folkways radio program I used to host. His depth of knowledge and deep appreciation for old-time country music, Bluegrass, and Western Swing put him at the center of more than one lively music scene here in Austin. His relentless good humor, irreplaceable tomfoolery, and sweetness of heart, all give memory a good name.

Mark Rubin: My favorite Rod story is the time he invited me over to his house and I remember walking in the door into complete darkness. He had this one light switch by the door that would turn on a bunch of lights in the house, I guess for guests so they wouldn't trip over his furniture. But there was no art on the wall, no pictures on the mantle—the sort of things you would expect when you walk into somebody's house. I got to tell you, it was the first time that I truly realized he was blind. I'd known him for years; played with him and hung out, but this was the first time I'd been to his place and it hit me like a brick. That's how complete his triumph was over his disability. I never ever thought of him as a blind person. I just thought of him as Rod, the sweetest, kindest Bluegrass picker I ever met. Still do.

Sharon Sandomirsky: I remember sitting with Rod and Keith Davis at Waterloo at 6th and Lamar in the early days of KOOP discussing a possible bluegrass show. Keith and Rod became the first “Strictly Bluegrass” programmers. I helped Rod find some of the music and write information in braille for the show. He had a deep knowledge of



bluegrass and country music, and it was great fun to get absorbed in the music with him. We even played together in his band: Texas a la Moag. Rod ran the board himself, having previously worked in radio and being an experienced ham radio enthusiast. His familiar, chatty voice and his wide knowledge of the music attracted many loyal listeners. After a while I trained to be a programmer and joined the collective. In addition to hosting his radio shows, Rod was very active in organizational work at the station, the only cooperatively organized radio station in the U.S. Rod was a valuable member of the KOOP team for many years. He helped the station to grow in its value to the community, and his contributions will be long remembered.

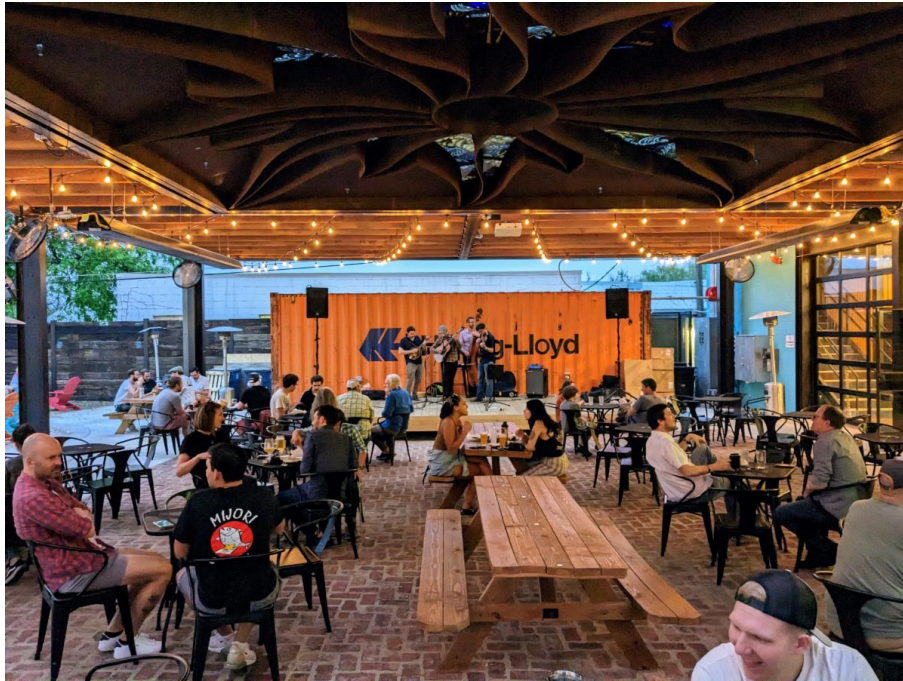
Alan Munde: When I was kid growing up in the bluegrass hinterlands of Oklahoma listening to and trying to learn about the music, I hung out at Mike Richey's Guitar Center in Norman hoping for some contact with bluegrass musicians. I also scoured the library, the magazine rack at the drugstores, the local record shops, and questioned any of the precious few pickers I could stir up for information. In all that, I ran onto what for me was the first

record of an amateur bluegrass band, the Bluegrass Hoppers from the Madison, Wisconsin area. It was a meaningful and enlightening moment. The band included Rod Moag on mandolin. Years later Rod and I wound up living in the Austin area and had the pleasure of playing music together. I even recorded on his bluegrass tribute to Bob Wills project. What a treat that was and what a swell guy he was to know and play music with—he knew so much. Bless his heart.

If others of you reading this would like to share your memories about Rod, please leave a post in our CTBA Facebook group, [Facebook.com/groups/CentralTexasBluegrass](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CentralTexasBluegrass). Thanks again Rod for all you gave to support and promote the music we love.

LAZ GRASS! NEW BLUEGRASS NIGHT AT LAZARUS BREWING 2

By Jon Lundbom, CTBA President



Austin brewpub **Lazarus Brewing Company** just opened up their second location at **4803 Airport Blvd.** The new facility - "LAZ 2" - is gigantic and absolutely gorgeous. And Lazarus have christened their **Tuesday nights** a new space for **Bluegrass** in Austin!

Swing on by every **Tuesday evening** from **6-9PM** for **great food**, **amazing beer**, and some **world-class bluegrass** from a rotating selection of Central Texas's finest pickers. (And **bottles of wine** are **half-off** on Tuesdays, too!)

See y'all there!

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**.

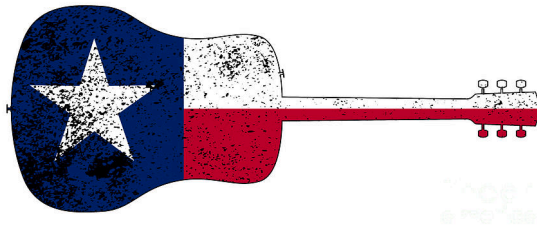
'Possum with the WiFi Password

*...and other juxtapositions
by your editor, Julian Root*

Friday, April 7th marks the third anniversary of John Prine's death. If you don't like at least a few of his songs, you ain't right. While not a bluegrasser, John



was surrounded by the music. His brother Dave played banjo and fiddle (and recorded many tracks on John's records). Another one of his brothers, Billy, was a longtime producer and curator of "Live From Mountain Stage," which featured many true-blue grassers. Shortly before his death, John recorded "Mama's Hands," a hard hitting Hazel Dickens song. Dudley Connell (Johnson Mountain Boys, Seldom Scene) was tasked with singing harmony, but ultimately said he thought it was better with only John singing. We are still hopeful that this recording will emerge! Oh, and the only reason "Paradise" is a bluegrass standard is that it was the only Prine song Jesse McReynolds knew when John walked in on a recording session hoping to cut a track with Jesse.



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

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#).

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!