

Central

# Texas Bluegrass

IBMA Member

Vol. 35 No. 04

April 1, 2013



## The Parkbench

By now I suspect you have survived South By Southwest, enjoyed the great performances and jams at Rice-Grass, and are looking forward to Old Settler's, Texas Pickin' Park, and an ever-increasing number of opportunities to hear and play bluegrass music this spring and summer. We're heading in to a busy time of year for bluegrass-lovers and that's a good thing.

By the way, if you run across a good band, event, or festival during your spring and summer travels around the country, be sure to drop us an e-mail or snail-mail and tell us all about it. I've heard of several festivals and camps scheduled for this summer in Colorado, California, and Kentucky. We'd love to hear about your adventures in the search for more bluegrass fun.

There's a lot of bluegrass goin' on in this issue so let's get to it. I hope *you* have plans for gettin' to it this summer. There's a band, event, festival, or camp just waiting for you to come and enjoy. Good weather is here and good music awaits. Drop me a line and let me know what you found. And, as always, keep on pickin'. - Bob Vestal, Editor, [ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org](mailto:ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org)



## Recital Time

I've seen the future of local bluegrass and I can tell you, it's in good hands...literally.

On March 3rd, Eddie Collins, long-time Austin music instructor, held his annual student recital at the New World Deli.

An exceptional number of students participated in the recital from beginner to advanced level of skill. The place was packed with students, family, and friends.

Eddie told me later, "For years, I didn't want to do a recital because I didn't want students feeling any added pressure like what they remember in a childhood piano recital. What changed was I started forming groups among my students for them to get together and practice and it just made sense to give them an outlet for what they were working on. It also helps

students learn to really polish tunes rather than just moving on after you "sort of know it." Some students choose not to participate, which is fine. The ones who do are usually very happy they did."

As one of those participants I can assure you we had a good time, are glad we did, and look forward to the next recital.



## New CTBA T-shirt Design And the winner is...

Remember that contest we held for folks to come up with a new design for the CTBA t-shirt? Well, someone did. The winning design was submitted by Mike Potter. We caught up with Mike and asked him about himself and his creative process:

"It's an honor to have my art chosen for the new CTBA design. I was inspired to draw Earl Scruggs due in part to his recent death in March 2012. Earl Scruggs was pivotal in originating the three-finger five-string banjo style and largely responsible for attracting a large and diverse audience into becoming bluegrass fans. Earl's iconic status and approachable ways made him an excellent choice to represent the spirit of CTBA. In my primitive folk-art style I have attempted to capture Earl's easy-going and approachable manner. The design shows Mr. Scruggs in his natural stance of holding his beloved Gibson banjo.

I've lived in Austin over thirty years. I'm originally from Murphysboro in Southern Illinois near SIU Carbondale. I'm married and have two boys, 17 and 20 years of age. My wife is an Oncology Nurse working in Austin for thirty years. I originally moved to Austin playing in a band (the Dixie Diesels) performing western-swing and traditional country music. We were able to eke out a living playing in the '70s in Austin and on the road in a number of states. Some of my greatest experiences have been part of the opening band for acts such as Asleep at the Wheel, Gatemouth Brown, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, Hank Williams Jr., and John Hartford. Earlier I had been part of groups that played bluegrass and it was during that period I began playing the mandolin, but I have always been primarily a guitar and bass-player.

For the past twenty years I have been a therapist (LPC-S) for a juvenile services department in central Texas. In this occupation I was able to incorporate music where the youth learned and performed songs that developed music appreciation and musical skills. During the past year I've retired from my day job and have been pursuing my more artistic roots. I'm also a volunteer at KOOP FM radio and a newly certified programmer. I've also hosted my own KOOP Pilot Shows "Boot's Loot" playing country, blues, and other music and am assisting on Miss Pearl's General Store radio program at KOOP on Friday mornings."

Thanks to all those who submitted their ideas. Look for this winning design on the new CTBA t-shirt to be unveiled at the upcoming Old Settler's Music Festival this month.



### Multi-Educational Cross Cultural Arts Association

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[www.TexasBluegrassAssociation.com](http://www.TexasBluegrassAssociation.com)

## First Time for Illrd Tyme

Old Settler's Music Festival ([oldsettlersmusicfest.org](http://oldsettlersmusicfest.org)), Central Texas' signature music event, is almost upon us. Running April 18-21 in Dripping Spring, TX, this musical extravaganza is sure to please one and all.

Jean Spivey, Executive Director of the festival, says, "Our bluegrass lineup is terrific this year ... the Del McCoury Band, Jerry Douglas, Russell Moore & Illrd Tyme Out, and Casey Driessen. Locals are represented by MilkDrive and Wood and Wire. Both Della Mae and Carolina Chocolate Drops make their Old Settler's debut this year and we've got a slew of other fabulous artists. It's hard to say whom I'm most excited about. While the Travelin' McCourys have been to Old Settler's in the last several years, the legendary Del McCoury hasn't been at Old Settler's since 2006. Russell Moore is a first timer. Jerry Douglas? Well, there's none better."



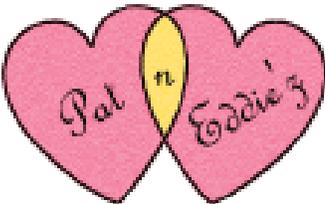
One of the OSMF newcomers this year is Russell Moore & Illrd Tyme Out. Russell is the five-time winner of the International Bluegrass Music Association Male Vocalist award. I had some e-mail traffic with the band earlier this month to talk about the band and their upcoming trip to Texas.

*Okay, 5-time IBMA Male Vocalist of the Year! Whodathunkit? You gotta be proud of that.* To be honest, it's a bit overwhelming. I am very honored and feel fortunate to have the support of so many fans and peers in the bluegrass industry! I love to sing and I am humbled by the fact that my God-given talent can give so much joy to others!

I can tell you that my parents, brothers, and all their families, and people that I've kept in contact with are extremely proud of my musical accomplishments and have supported me, in one way or another, since the beginning!

*How's the recovery of your voice coming along?* The recovery is going very well and I feel like I'm almost back to 100%. We have a weekend off coming up and I plan on staying very quiet until time to go back on the road. At that point, I'm optimistic that my voice will be completely healed. There were no cysts or polyps on my vocal chords, so there was no surgery involved. Still, the laryngitis was severe enough that it has taken almost two months to recover to the point where I can start singing again. I'm looking forward to being in good voice and singing for everyone at the Old Settler's Music Festival!

*You released the "Timeless Hits From The Past Bluegrass" CD back in January and it's held the pole position for some time. Tell us a little about that.* On January 1, 2012, I went into a business relationship with Moon-

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struck Management (Peter Keiser and Josh Trivett) for representation and booking. During the same year, Cracker Barrel was looking for another bluegrass artist/group to team up with to record another CD for their music program. Peter and Josh had several meetings with Cracker Barrel's marketing manager and music program reps and they all agreed that we would be a good 'fit' for their music program. After presenting them with several themes for the recording, we all decided the best one would be 'songs that influenced us as aspiring musicians and/or as a band'. It was tough to narrow it down to only 12 songs. In the end, we felt like the ones we chose were as varied as the many genres we picked from and also, worked together and flowed easily on playback. Evidently, there are



a lot of people who feel the same way as it spent 7 out of the first 9 weeks after its release at #1 on Billboard's bluegrass chart! Truly, the CD has been received very well by fans, friends, peers, and critics all over the country and we receive positive remarks about the recording from someone just about every day! We feel blessed to, again, have the support and approval of so many people! I'm sure there are many reasons why it has been received so well. For me, it's not just the collection of songs. It's also the warm tones and recording quality, which is a testament to Brandon Bell's recording knowledge. Also, having Barry Bales produce the CD gave the rest of us a chance to relax and enjoy the process even more, and I think that comes through when listening to the songs. And, I have to admit, it was an honor and a thrill to have Pam Tillis and Sonya Isaacs lend their beautiful voices to a couple of duets with me!

*I know there are a ton of folks excited to know you're coming to the Old Settler's Music Festival in April, your first time there. Have you heard much about it and what are your expectations?* Anytime we have the opportunity to perform in my home state of Texas, I'm 'all-in'! I have heard many good things about the Old Settler's Music Festival and have visited the website several times since learning of our inclusion in this year's festival schedule. One of the things that intrigues me about the lineup is that it's so diverse and there are many artists that will be performing there that we don't normally see or hear when touring. While we're extremely excited about getting a chance to perform our music for everyone who attends the festival, it should be a blast listening to the other artists perform their songs while enjoying the landscape of the Austin area and, hopefully, getting to visit with some of the other artists along with our fans and friends from the area.

*Are you ready for some real Texas BBQ?* YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT!! It's a long way from where I live here in Georgia to a mesquite tree!! Slow cooked and mesquite smoked...that's the ticket!! My mouth is watering already!

*What's your schedule look like this year?* Our tour schedule has been very busy for the last several years. Even when other bands in our genre have been struggling to find venues and show dates, our schedule has gotten heavier and the phone rings off the wall some days! Looking into the crystal ball, and by the number of show dates already booked for 2013, it looks like this year's schedule will not pale in comparison to our schedule of recent years. Because of our heavy touring and traveling, we schedule a weekend off in the summer for a warm weather vacation and, also, several weeks in December (sometimes, the whole month) so we can all be with our families during the holidays.

*Rounding out Illrd Tyme Out are Steve Dilling on banjo, Wayne Benson on mandolin, Justin Haynes on fiddle, and Edgar Loudermilk on bass. Tell me about the band's longevity.* Steve: We do get along really well. That is definitely one of the keys to us being together for so long. The other key reason is that we have been fortunate enough to have a lot of work. No jobs will break a band up quickly. Wayne Benson added, I think the fact that we all take part in the creative process in this band has a lot to do with us staying together. The most likely thing to tear a group apart is someone being unhappy artistically.

Tell me about the Timeless Hits CD. **Wayne:** The *Timeless Hits* CD was a chance to make a very different album for our band. It's heavier than any other record we have done with the drums, but we really think its still us musically. The theme of the recording is songs that shaped what we do and we touched on a lot



of different stuff in the process. It was cool for me to have an outlet for the electric mando since some of my heroes played it. **Steve:** The *Timeless Hits* CD was the most fun cd to record. It was cool to record these songs that were favorites of ours, and to have the chance to record these songs that we probably would have never have recorded. Working with Barry Bales was awesome, also. We never have had an outside producer working with us. It made a very relaxed atmosphere.

Any expectations about playing at the Old Settler's Music Festival in April? **Wayne:** Just hoping we have a great set at Old Settler's and represent ourselves well. It will be

the first time hearing the group for a lot of the audience and hopefully they walk away fans of the group.

**Steve:** We are very excited to play at the Old Settler's Festival. We are very aware of the impact that playing this festival could have our career.

The band has been together since 1991, right? Either y'all really get along well or there's something special going on with Illrd Tyme Out. What's the key to your longevity? **Steve:** Yes, we do get along really well. That is definitely one of the keys to us being together for so long. The other key reason is that we have been fortunate enough to have a lot of work. No jobs will break a band up quickly. **Wayne:** I think the fact that we all take part in the creative process in this band has a lot to do with us staying together. The most likely thing to tear a group apart is someone being unhappy artistically.

Do y'all live near each other? What are practice sessions like? **Steve:** No other than Russell and Edgar who both live in Georgia, we all live in different states. We practice mostly while we are out on the road. **Wayne:** The band has always been spread out over many states so practice sessions are more often than not just something we do on the bus or back stage before a gig. Our rehearsal sessions manage to be light hearted compared to stories I hear about other groups but they always feel very productive to me.

Y'all have released about a dozen and a half albums/CDs over the years. Where do you come up with the material? **Wayne:** Finding material has always been a group effort. That's one of the reasons we have diversity in our song selection. When you have five people bringing ideas to the table it gives you more to songs to choose from. **Steve:** We are always looking for material. Russell has written several tunes that we have recorded in the past.

Being 7-time IBMA Vocal Group of the Year must make you very proud of your careers. How has that affected you, what's that mean to you? **Wayne:** The vocal awards are very humbling. I am not a singer whatsoever



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and would never have imagined I'd sing in a quartet, let alone being a part of this. **Steve:** Winning those IBMA awards were amazing. We are so proud of winning those because those are band awards. We won those together as a group.

*What's coming up this year for the band?* **Steve:** The band is planning on working new shows and introducing as many new people to our music as we can. We have about 20 new shows that we are working this year. We are in the early stages of planning the next CD. **Wayne:** Busy year ahead for the band. We are playing many venues for the first time and hope to make new fans in the process. That and the Cracker Barrel project together can hopefully lead to growth for us. We are talking about the next recording project already but don't really have a game plan yet. The other night on the bus we listened to a song Russell and I had talked about before. Maybe that's a start!



## A Review of How to Sing Harmony The Natural Way

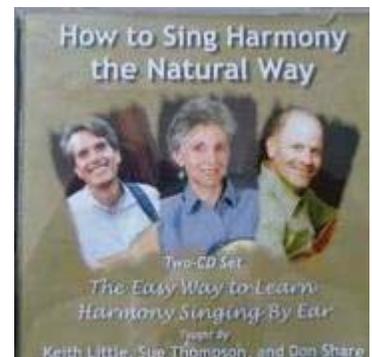
© 2009 Merlin Music  
by Eddie Collins

For all my background in music, I have always had trouble just hearing and singing parts. Thus, I was excited to get my hands (and ears) on this course by Susan Thompson, Keith Little, and Don Share.

The entire two-disc set is formulated to where you sing the parts. They first teach you how to hear the next chord tone above the one they are singing. After they give you a couple of chances to try it, they come in and sing the correct note to see if you "got it." It is important not to just listen to the CD, but to sing your part when a spot is left to do so.

They focus on finding the harmony note to "key" words, not all the words at once. Then, realize whether notes repeat. Lastly, find the notes that fill in between the key words. The first disc helps you get the high part, whereas the second disc is dedicated to the part below the melody, which for me has always been the harder part to hear. Again, they walk you through hearing the chord tones. This part will often repeat notes as the melody moves since at least one of the notes from the 1 chord will also be in the 4 and 5 chord.

With the proof being in the pudding, I was singing the high harmony completely right to "All The Good Times" within two days of practice. I learned where I would've normally placed incorrect notes and how to hear them correctly. The system works no matter what your range. The same song is sung in multiple keys to see if you've really "got it." There are no notes to read and no formal music theory is discussed--you just do it! The list price is \$29.95 for CDs or \$24.95 for the MP3 files. You can Google the title and get four free pages that give you an idea how the course will work. I highly recommend it.



# Events, Festivals, and Fun

The **CTBA 2nd & 4th Saturday bluegrass jams** run from 2:00-4:00 slow jam and 4:00-6:00 for the beginner/intermediate jam at Wildflower Terrace, 3801 Berkman Dr, Austin 78723. See you there!



**Special Consensus**, an acoustic bluegrass band from IL, ([www.specialc.com](http://www.specialc.com)) is coming to Texas this October to perform at Historic Oakdale Park for the Paluxy River Fall Bluegrass Festival held in Glen Rose, Texas. Their album "Scratch Gravel Road" was selected as a Grammy nominee for Best Bluegrass Album in December

The **South Texas Bluegrass Gospel jam** is the 3rd Monday each month, 2-6 pm, at G&H BBQ, 5491 Hwy 624 in Bluntzer, TX. See South Texas Bluegrass Association on Facebook, e-mail [stx.bluegrass@gmail.com](mailto:stx.bluegrass@gmail.com), or call 361-387-4552.



The 7th annual **Melody Ranch Bluegrass Festival** is set to begin Wednesday, May 29th and run through the weekend. The ranch is near Sherman, TX, and has a full lineup of performers. The ranch offers the opportunity for jamming, camping, and indoor air-conditioned shows. See [www.melodyranchbluegrassfestival.com](http://www.melodyranchbluegrassfestival.com) or call Don Sharp at 903-271-4260 or Tom Hackney at 903-752-5223 for information.

Guest band April 13<sup>th</sup>



THE BLAKE BROTHERS

The **Big Sandy Bluegrass jam and show** is scheduled for April 13th at 204 S. Tyler, 1.5 blocks south of Hwy 90, in Big Sandy, TX. Doors open at 4:00 pm for jams. First show starts at 7:00 pm with the Blake Brothers followed by the Hill Climbers at 8:00 pm. For confirmation and info, call 903-738-3216.



The **Bay Area Bluegrass Association** presents *Bluegrass In League City*, Saturday, April 20th, at the Johnnie Arolfo Civic Center, 300 W. Walker, featuring Sabine River Bend. Jams start at 5:00 pm, stage show at 7:00 pm. Admission is **FREE**. Details at [www.bayareabluegrass.org](http://www.bayareabluegrass.org).



The **Crossroads Traditional Bluegrass Jam** is April 19th at the American Legion Post #166, 1402 E. Santa Rosa, Victoria, TX. Slow jam 5:00 pm, jam at 7:00 pm. Free admission but donations help support the American Legion and local veterans. For info: Stan Kendrick 935-4413, Gary Moses 550-5466, or [crossroadsbluegrass@yahoo.com](mailto:crossroadsbluegrass@yahoo.com).



# Bluegrass Heritage Festival

Review and photos by Ken Brown

Alan Tompkins and the **Bluegrass Heritage Foundation** sponsor some good festivals in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Two years ago, in February 2011, a one-day “Bluegrass Winterjam”, featuring the Gibson Brothers and Honi Deaton, was held at the South Oaks Baptist Church, a large complex of buildings in a still somewhat semi-rural area along Highway 287 in Arlington. There was no winter festival last year, but on March 1-2 of this year, an expanded version was held at the same location.

Unlike the Farmer’s Branch festival, which is free, admission was by wristband, sold online in advance, but the festival was well worth the admission price. This year’s version was simply billed as the “Bluegrass Heritage Festival”.

This year’s festival was explicitly advertised as a replacement for the spring Argyle festival, now discontinued. It featured headliners New Town, Balsam Range, Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers, and Chris Jones and the Night Drivers (shown on the next page), along with East Mountain, the Herrins, Copper Canyon, and Grass Notes. I’d say that out of this lineup, the band that impressed me the most was **New Town**.



Led by fiddler Kati Penn, the band includes Junior Williams on banjo and guitar, Clint Hurd on mandolin, C.J. Cain on guitar, and Terry Poirier on bass. These guys have some great material ranging from traditional hammer-down bluegrass to honky-tonkified country shuffles.

On the stylistic spectrum, they fall somewhere in the middle between hardcore traditional (Ralph Stanley) and progressive (Infamous Stringdusters), perhaps a bit more toward the progressive side, and that’s exactly how I like my bluegrass.

I picked up a copy of their 2011 release, which features material by well-known bluegrass writers like Jon Weisberger (of the Night Drivers), Mark Simos, and Dee Gaskin. John Frazier (from the John Cowan Band and Hit and Run Bluegrass) and Travis Book (Stringdusters) and Travis’s wife Sarah Siskind all contribute material, too. Rob Ickes supplies the dobro on this recording. Another highlight of the festival was listening to Mark Stoffel, the Night Drivers’ mandowizard.

Vendor sales and jamming at the festival take place in a gym with a long series of meeting rooms

arranged along one side. There were at least seven meeting rooms, all full of jammers, plus another jam in an entrance foyer and a couple going in the gym itself.



A lot of the attendees stayed at the Days Inn in Arlington, and there was jamming in the lobby there, as well. There were guitar, banjo, and mandolin workshops (I skipped those in favor of jamming, so I can't report on them).

Food sales consisted of options like chili (vegetarian or carnivorous), hot dogs, cornbread and beans, soft drinks, and the like. There is plenty of parking at the church. This isn't an RV-oriented festival, of course, and I didn't see any in the parking lots. There is a Denny's and a scattering of fast-food restaurants nearby. This festival is a welcome respite from the bleak winter bluegrass drought, and I can't wait to see what Alan and his cohorts come up with next year.



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*Mommy, what's that man doing on the stage?  
I'm not sure, Darling. Here, would you like some chips?  
But, why is he kneeling down? Is he praying?  
I don't know, Dear. Is your sandwich okay?  
Are all the people on stage going to kneel down and pray?  
I don't think so, Sweetheart. Stop looking at the stage and  
eat your dinner.  
Is he the band leader, Mommy?  
I don't know who he is, Cupcake. Drink your water.  
He has a funny shirt, doesn't he, Mommy?  
Yes, dear, yes he does. Wipe your chin now.*



# CTBA Bluegrass Bands

## **The 145s**

David Diers  
512-814-5145  
www.the145smusic.com

## **Air Cargo**

Ray Cargo  
raybo@raylcargo.com

## **Alan Munde Gazette**

Bill Honker  
214-693-1620  
bhonker@gmail.com

## **Allen Hurt & The Mountain Showmen**

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

## **Austin Steamers**

Joe Sundell  
501-416-4640  
www.theaustinsteamers.com

## **Bee Creek Boys**

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

## **Better Late Than Never**

Duane Calvin  
512-835-0342

## **Blacktop Bend**

George Rios  
512-619-8536  
blacktopbend@yahoo.com

## **Bluebonnet Pickers**

Brooks Blake  
830-798-1087

## **Blue Creek String Band**

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

## **Blue Skyz Band**

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

## **Buffalo Grass**

Don Inbody  
512-295-6977  
don@inbody.net

## **Carper Family Band**

Jenn Miori  
carperfamilyband@gmail.com

## **Chasing Blue**

512-963-7515  
suzoleson@aol.com

## **Christy & the Plowboys**

Christy Foster 512-452-6071  
christyfoster@earthlink.net

## **David & Barbara Brown**

361-985-9902 (Corpus Christi)  
ddbrown@grandecom.net

## **Dave Seeman**

512-557-2939  
davidseeman7@gmail.com

## **Dueling Hearts**

Wil Wilson  
duelinghearts@att.net

## **Eddie Collins**

512-873-7803  
www.eddiecollins.biz  
tuneman@austin.rr.com

## **Grazmatics**

Wayne Ross  
512-330-2188  
lwayneross@gmail.com

## **Hem & Haw**

Ben Hodges & Jenn Miori  
hemandhawmusic@gmail.com

## **James Reams & The Barnstormers**

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gunion@austin.rr.com

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www.siekerband.com

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robertbecker1755@sbcglobal.net

# 21<sup>st</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> or something like that



Rumor has it that Eddie Collins had a birthday in March. Here is the Collins family - Eddie, Ann, and Amy - after the ceremonial blowing out of the candles, or in this case, sparklers. Ann baked five cakes for the event and, at last notice, there was hardly a crumb to be found. As Eddie said, the oven in their home got a good workout that day.

What started out as an intimate little birthday celebration turned into a huge fund raiser for Health Alliance for Austin Musicians (HAAM). Carolyn Schwarz from HAAM collected donations and handed out HAAM stickers.



Upwards of 35 musicians showed up at the New World Deli to help with the cause. By the end of the evening, those musicians, who had played over 24 songs, many of which were Eddie's original compositions, along with those in attendance had collected over \$1100 for HAAM!

Here are Eddie, Tom Ellis, Amy, Tom Duplissey, and Mike Montgomery barely seen there on the right on fiddle. Thanks to Diana Ost for these two photos ([dianaostphotography.photoshelter.com/](http://dianaostphotography.photoshelter.com/)).

Musicians from all around came to play, reunite with long-time and new friends, and just say happy birthday and to support HAAM.



Here, Tom Ellis, Ray Cargo, Jeff Robertson, Eddie, and Mike Montgomery excel at "Man Of Constant Sorrow". Jeff has an amazing voice.

There was music, and cake, and fun, and cake, and laughter, and cake, and...well, you get the idea. As they like to say, a fantastic time was had by all.

And, did I mention there was cake? Thanks Ann, and Eddie, and all who made it a special event.

## Visit Llano

[www.promotellano.org](http://www.promotellano.org)

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**H ALLETTSVILLE**  
**TEXAS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**FIDDLERS' FROLICS**

by Stan Kendrick

Every April for the last few years, my wife and I would grab our tent, load up our camping gear, grab the guitar and head up to Hallettsville for a weekend of rest and relaxation at their annual "Fiddlers Frolics". This event is the Texas State fiddling championship where there are different categories of competition like "Anything Goes Fiddle Contest", "Gone to Texas" for out-of-state fiddlers, "Accompanist Contest", "Senior Division" and 15 years and younger competition.

There is also a sausage, beans, steak, gumbo, chicken, pork ribs, brisket, and BBQ sauce cook-off as well as arts and crafts booths. The Knights of Columbus Hall is a first-class facility with a large indoor area and huge outdoor pavilions.

The music and food is great but the part that we enjoy most is sitting around with the friends that we met in past years and playing our instruments. This goes on and off from morning to night from Thursday night through Sunday. The contestants and bands that play there, indoors and out are impressive.

They also have a Cajun Fun Night on Fridays each year. This year they will have Wade Landry, a complete show direct from Branson, MO. It's a two-hour show with Cajun, traditional country and western swing, interactive video, gospel, and comedy. It is guaranteed to be a real crowd pleaser!

Well, I often wondered why there was not bluegrass there so I got up with Kenneth Henneke, the man that runs the event and he said he always wanted to have bluegrass but it just never worked out that way. I told him that I would like to invite all the bluegrass pickers I can to his event. I asked if he had a place off to the side that we could set up and jam. He took me around the side and pointed out to an area about ten football fields big and asked me if that would be big enough. I gave a big smile and said it just might be.

It is too late to add bluegrass music to their lineup this year, but he said we could use the area for primitive camping (there are about 25 RV hookups right there, too) and he will supply some power and lights if needed so we could set up our own bluegrass music area.

There are camper and RV hookups throughout the grounds. To reserve a hookup, contact the KC Hall at 361-798-2311 or the Wilber Baber Memorial Complex at 361-798-1600. They have a four-day RV package for \$150 that includes two weekend passes to all the events. For more information about the Fiddlers Frolics weekend, their website is: [www.fiddlersfrolics.com](http://www.fiddlersfrolics.com).

If you're interested in setting this area up for a bluegrass music weekend April 25th - 28th, or any other weekend, contact Stan Kendrick at 361-935-4413 or [stan@crossroadsbluegrass.com](mailto:stan@crossroadsbluegrass.com). Stan and Irene Kendrick are doing a fantastic job promoting bluegrass music through Crossroads Bluegrass in Victoria, TX.



# BLUEGRASS JAMS!!!

**NOTICE:** Be sure to contact the venue and/or host to ensure the jam/show is still active. The only info we have about each of these is what was sent to us. If you find a problem with any venue or need to change your information, drop us a line at [ctba@centralbluegrass.org](mailto:ctba@centralbluegrass.org).

## AUSTIN

2nd & 4th Saturday, CTBA Sponsored, 3801 Berkman Drive, 78723, slow jam, 2 to 4 pm; intermediate jam 4 to 6 pm

1st & 3rd Thursdays 7:00 pm at Bruce Mansbridge's home  
Call Steve Mangold 512-345-6155 for info on all Austin jams

Every Sunday, Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto, 78701 2:00 pm

1st Wed., Musicians Woodshed, 7:00 - 10:00 pm, 3698 RR 620 South, Ste. 107, 78738, [themusicianswoodshed.com](http://themusicianswoodshed.com)

## BANDERA

4th Friday, 6:30 pm at Silver Sage Corral, east of Bandera. Info: 830-796-4969 (No jam on Good Friday)

## BELLVILLE

4th Saturday, Jam & Show (Spring Creek Club Sponsored), Jan. - Sep, JAM 6:30 pm, SHOW, Coushatta RV Ranch, 979-865-5250, [bluegrass221@peoplepc.com](mailto:bluegrass221@peoplepc.com), [www.springcreekbluegrass.com](http://www.springcreekbluegrass.com)

## Carrollton

Saturdays (March - Nov), 7:30pm -1:00 am, between Main and State Streets at 6th, Info: Jim Miller 972-276-3197  
[www.meetup.com/bluegrass-142](http://www.meetup.com/bluegrass-142)

## Corpus Christi

2nd Sunday, 2:00 pm, Heritage Park, Corpus Christi, South Texas Bluegrass Association, Info: Bill Davis 361-387-4552

## FAYETTEVILLE

2nd Sat, April - November, starts at 6 pm, Courthouse Square  
[info@texaspickinpark.com](mailto:info@texaspickinpark.com), [www.texaspickinpark.com](http://www.texaspickinpark.com)

## FIELD CREEK

1st Sat, Field Creek Music - 6:00 pm, Field Creek is between Llano and Brady on Hwy 71. Info: Bill Tuckness 325-247-3223

## GEORGETOWN

Every Thursday at Duke's BBQ, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, 512-869-8076 or [sigi@sigi.us](mailto:sigi@sigi.us), [pages.suddenlink.net/jrf/rr/](http://pages.suddenlink.net/jrf/rr/)

## GLEN ROSE

3rd Sat., Oakdale Park, Paluxy River Bluegrass Assn., free stage show, camping encouraged, Info: John Scott 817-525-0558

## HARWOOD

3rd Sat., 2-9 pm, JAM & Stage Show, 9 mi. E. of Luling, Hwy 90, Info: Tony Conyers 512-601-1510 or 512-940-3731

## HONDO

1st Friday, Hondo Hootenanny, starts at 11 am. Hondo Community Center, 1014 18th st, Hondo, TX Info 830 426 2831

## LEAGUE CITY

3rd Sat., (Jan-Nov) Jam 5 pm (BABA Sponsored) Show 6:30 pm, Info: Rick Kirkland 281-488-2244, [www.bayareabluegrass.org](http://www.bayareabluegrass.org)

## LIBERTY HILL

4th Sat., Jam, 1-6 pm, Hwy 29 West, Info: Paula 512-778-5410

## LLANO

4th Sat. (Jan. - Oct.), Bluegrass in the Hill Country Jam, 5:30-10:30 pm, at The Badu House, Info: [info@BluegrassInTheHill-Country.org](mailto:info@BluegrassInTheHill-Country.org)

1st & 3rd Tue., Beginner/Intermediate, 7:00 pm First Presbyterian Church, Info: Jeff White 325-248-4114

1st Sat., Field Creek Fiddle Jam, 6-9 pm, Field Creek is between Llano and Brady on Hwy 71, Info: Bill Tuckness 325-247-3223

3rd Sat., Pontotoc Fiddle Jam, 6-9 PM, Pontotoc is between Llano and Brady on Hwy 71, Info: Bill Tuckness 325-247-3223

## MANCHACA

Thur., 6:30-9:00 pm, Manchaca Railroad Bar-B-Q, FM 1626, Info: Dave 512-680-4433

## MEDINA

2nd Tue., All Gospel Jam 6: pm, First Baptist Church, Info: Linda Barton 830-589-2486

## MONTGOMERY

1st Sat., Jam, 10 am-2 pm, downtown historical District, Discount coupons at local KOA, Info: Mike Davis [mld@consolidated.net](mailto:mld@consolidated.net)

## PEARL

1st Sat, Pearl Bluegrass Jam & Show, 1 pm, Old School House, FM 183 (not US 183) 7 mi South of Purmela, RV hookups available, Info: Ronald Medart 254-865-6013, [www.pearlbluegrass.com](http://www.pearlbluegrass.com)

## ROUND ROCK

3rd Sat., 2-5 pm, Danny Ray's Music, 12 Chisholm Trail, [www.dannyraysmusic.com](http://www.dannyraysmusic.com), 512-671-8663

## SAN ANTONIO

2nd & 4th Monday, Monday-In-A-Jam, 7 pm, Grady's BBQ, 327 E. Kakoma Dr., 78216, Peyton Starr 210-870-4321 or Sheryl Sultenfuss

## SHULENBURG

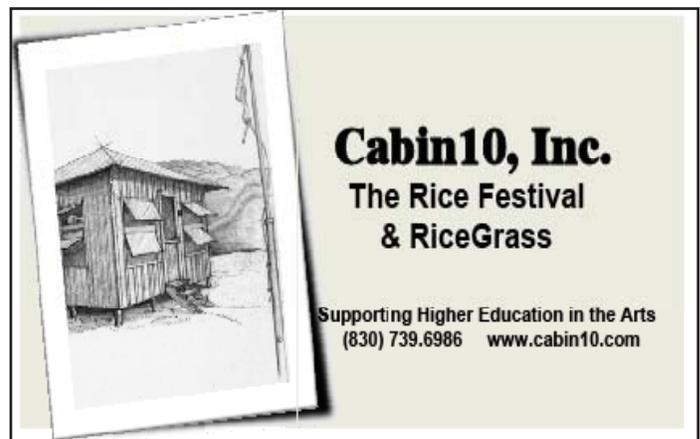
1st & 3rd Tue., RV Park Clubhouse, 6:30-9:00 pm, Contact: Loretta Baumgarten 979-743-4388 or [Camp@SchulenburgRVPark.com](mailto:Camp@SchulenburgRVPark.com)

## UTOPIA

3rd Friday, Jam, 7:00 pm, Senior Citizens Center, Info: Skip Doerr 830-966-6362

## Victoria

3rd Friday, 5:00-10:00 pm, American Legion Post #166, 1402 E. Santa Rosa, Free Admission. Info: Stan Kendrick 935-4413, Gary Moses 550-5466, or [crossroadsbluegrass@yahoo.com](mailto:crossroadsbluegrass@yahoo.com)



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# Don't Ignore The Pain

by Bob Bourgeois

At some time in our lives as pickers, we may have to deal with injuries caused by playing the very instruments we love so much. As we get older, the likelihood of injury seems to increase. At 25, I used to get some minor muscle aches in my hand and wrist. If I ignored it, it went away. At 67, I can only wish that was still true. Well, wishing and healing without a conscious effort no longer works for me. So, I'll share some things that do work.

I'm not an expert on damage to the human body or the treatment of serious problems. I've torn a ligament, cut big gashes in my fingers and hands, even whacked myself with a hammer once or twice. However, I also get pains that are a direct result of playing guitar and I suspect some of you reading this have similar problems. So, here are some safe and simple things to keep in mind.

First, try to prevent problems from starting. As a musician, think of yourself as an athlete. Warm up the muscles, tendons, and ligaments that you use to play your instrument. Check your posture, too. No need to get your back all knotted up. Keep as relaxed as you can to do what you need to do with the instrument. Practice on a regular basis. Practice not only keeps your chops at a high level, it also exercises those little muscles in your hands and wrists.

Second, recognize when you have a problem. If you have a pain or some part of your hand, wrist, or arm has gone numb then you have a problem--might be a big problem, might be a small problem, but it is a problem. Recognizing a problem can lead to the third part of this formula.

Third, take action to prevent the problem from becoming worse. Most pickers' problems come from the repetitive things we are doing. Repetitive motions are just daring the Hurt Demon to come get you. Try to back off a little: practice at slower tempos for less time, change your technique if necessary, and remember that most little pains can be overcome in three days to a week. Patience is necessary to get over minor pains.

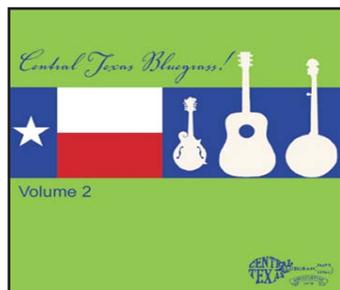
I'll finish with a couple of personal examples. Making an open A chord on the guitar by using my index finger as a bar on three strings caused it to go numb. I quit using just one finger to bar the strings and used three fingertips to make the chord. I also quit making double-stops with one finger and began using two fingertips instead. The numbness went away in three or four weeks but I changed my technique so as to use the single finger bar only rarely. I have returned to using the one finger bar for the A chord, but for double stops and melody lines, where I could bar a couple of strings, I prefer to dedicate separate fingertips to each string. For me, it turns out to be a better sounding technique. The A chord is not used that much and a capo allows me to play in A using G chords, anyway. Win, win.

Another example: I began to learn to flat-pick seriously about three years ago. I slowed everything down, arranged every up and down stroke of the right hand and every finger position for the left hand. The strategy worked well. However, as my speed picked up I noticed my right wrist would ache--first on one side then the other or both at the same time. During practice, I dropped the tempo back, did fewer repetitions, and slowly built the speed back up. At the end of three to five days, my wrist went back to normal and my speed and stamina went back to where I started. And, slowing down during practice always has the side effect of making my playing better. Again: win, win.

There are a lot of web sites that address musicians' injuries. Simply search for something like "musicians injuries", "repetitive strain injury", or "carpal tunnel syndrome". Keep in mind my personal first rule: "If there is a bone poking through the skin, put down the guitar and call a doctor."

(If you experience any kind of pain before, during, or after playing, seek medical assistance. This article is not intended to be construed as medical advice. - Ed.)

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CTBA provides a link between clubs, restaurants, and other venues and Central Texas Bluegrass musicians.

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