



Artwork by Emily Isbell

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hey y'all, and greetings from 2024! We here at CTBA leadership are excited for another great year promoting and celebrating Bluegrass right here in Central Texas.

Central Texas has sure come a long way in recent years. We've got live Bluegrass and Bluegrass jams just about every day of the week now. Just a few weeks ago, a bunch of CTBA members and friends put on an amazing SXSW-adjacent event - **South by South Grass** - and wow what a fantastic day of bluegrass. (More on that in an upcoming eblast.) To mention our little organization, we had a fantastic first event this year (more on that below) and are hard at work planning out the the rest of our calendar.

As always, big thanks to all of the CTBA members and supporters out there. I'll see y'all 'round Austin and at our Sunday jam, but please feel to reach out anytime at [President@CentralTexasBluegrass.org](mailto:President@CentralTexasBluegrass.org).

*Jon Lundbom*

*President, Central Texas Bluegrass*

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## BAND SCRAMBLE & GARAGE SALE RECAP

Thanks to everyone who came out to the 2024CTBA Band Scramble & Garage Sale at [Sagebrush](#) on February 25th!!!

The event was a **HUGE** success, raising **nearly \$1200\*** for the CTBA. Every dollar raised furthers our mission to promote and celebrate Bluegrass in Central Texas through our events, jams, scholarship program, etc.

The Garage Sale opened at 3PM.



Central Texas Bluegrass Luminary Mr. Eddie Collins called the bands at 4PM.



GET REHEARSIN', Y'ALL!!!



And then at 5PM everybody performed.





**And everybody sounded great!** What an amazing event, as always. Thanks to all the **performers**, thanks to a **great audience**, thanks to everyone who **supported the CTBA** by **donating** and/or **purchasing** some stuff, and big thanks to **Sagebrush** for hosting.

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We wanted to make a special mention of long-time CTBA member and big-time supporter **Gordon Daugherty**, who passed away in 2023. When, several years ago, Gordon was no longer able to play banjo due to arthritis, he donated his Hopkins banjo to CTBA. The Hopkins banjo was bought by CTBA member **Shawn Spiars**, banjoist for both **Grassland** and the **Hot Pickin' 57s**. Prior to his passing last year, Gordon donated his **Allen Banjo** to CTBA as well.

Gordon met Allen Banjos' **Fonza Smith** at the **1996 CTBA Zilker Park Bluegrass Festival**, an annual long-standing, all-day, ten-band event held for years in downtown Austin. Houston's Allen Banjos had a vendor booth at the festival, and Daugherty made arrangements to order a custom walnut Abilene model from Smith. It was Gordon's main banjo for years, he took it to both the beginner/intermediate CTBA jams and our weekly jam at Artz Ribhouse.

We are happy to report that - thanks to the CTBA Garage Sale - this treasured banjo has found a new home with CTBA board member and newsletter editor (not to mention **KOOP Strictly Bluegrass** host) **Julian Root**. The money raised through this sale (*\*above and beyond the \$1200 total*) will once again go to support CTBA-sponsored programs and events. Big thank yous and much love go out to Julian as well as Gordon and the Daugherty family.

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# CTBA MEMORIAL FEST 2024

SAVE THE DATE!



Get your calendars out, y'all, and write '**CTBA Memorial Fest 2024**' on **Sunday, May 19th!**

This year's Memorial Fest will be held at **Batch Craft Beer & Kolaches** at **3220 Manor Rd.** We will have an **early jam** starting at **1PM**, followed by performances from **CTBA members** and **member-bands** starting at **3PM**.

More info to come, we look forward to seeing everybody there!

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## CTBA SUNDAY JAM UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who's been making it out to the **CTBA Sunday Bluegrass jam!** **Sagebrush** has been a fantastic host for the past four months, many thanks to them as well! We'll be there **every Sunday at 3PM**, so please do keep coming out.



In an effort to support and improve the quality of the jam, the CTBA has started **supplying a professional bass player** (for at least the main jam) every Sunday. It's important to have a solid foundation for a good pick, and we do indeed plan on having a real good pick every Sunday afternoon. **We'll see y'all there!**

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## CTBA WILLA BEACH-PORTER SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

We are now accepting applications for **2024 CTBA Willa Beach-Porter Scholarships!**

If you or someone you know is interested in **attending a bluegrass camp**, please consider applying for a scholarship! CTBA Willa-Beach Porter Scholarships are available to **any Texas resident aged 12-18**.

Head on over to **[CentralTexasBluegrass.org/Scholarship](https://CentralTexasBluegrass.org/Scholarship)** and apply today!





And a reminder that the CTBA has **ArtistWorks** scholarships available, too! Each 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). Again, head on over to **[CentralTexasBluegrass.org/Scholarship](https://CentralTexasBluegrass.org/Scholarship)** and apply today!

Many thanks to ArtistWorks for again partnering with the CTBA to bring these opportunities to our community!

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## FARMGRASS 2024



MAY 4TH, 2024

# FARMGRASS

AT WILD BUNCH BREWING

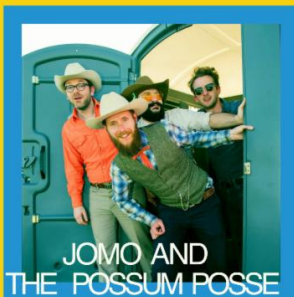
NEAR LOCKHART, TEXAS

2014 - 2024  
10

MUSIC • CRAFT BEER • FOOD • VENDORS • KIDS' ACTIVITIES



THE LOST PINES



JOMO AND THE POSSUM POSSE



TIGER ALLEY

PLUS A SPECIAL KIDS' SET BY **Andy Sprouts**

TICKETS AND MORE INFO:  
[WWW.FARMGRASS.ORG](http://WWW.FARMGRASS.ORG)

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS YEAR'S FEST  
GO TO OUR FRIENDS AT FARM SHARE  
AUSTIN



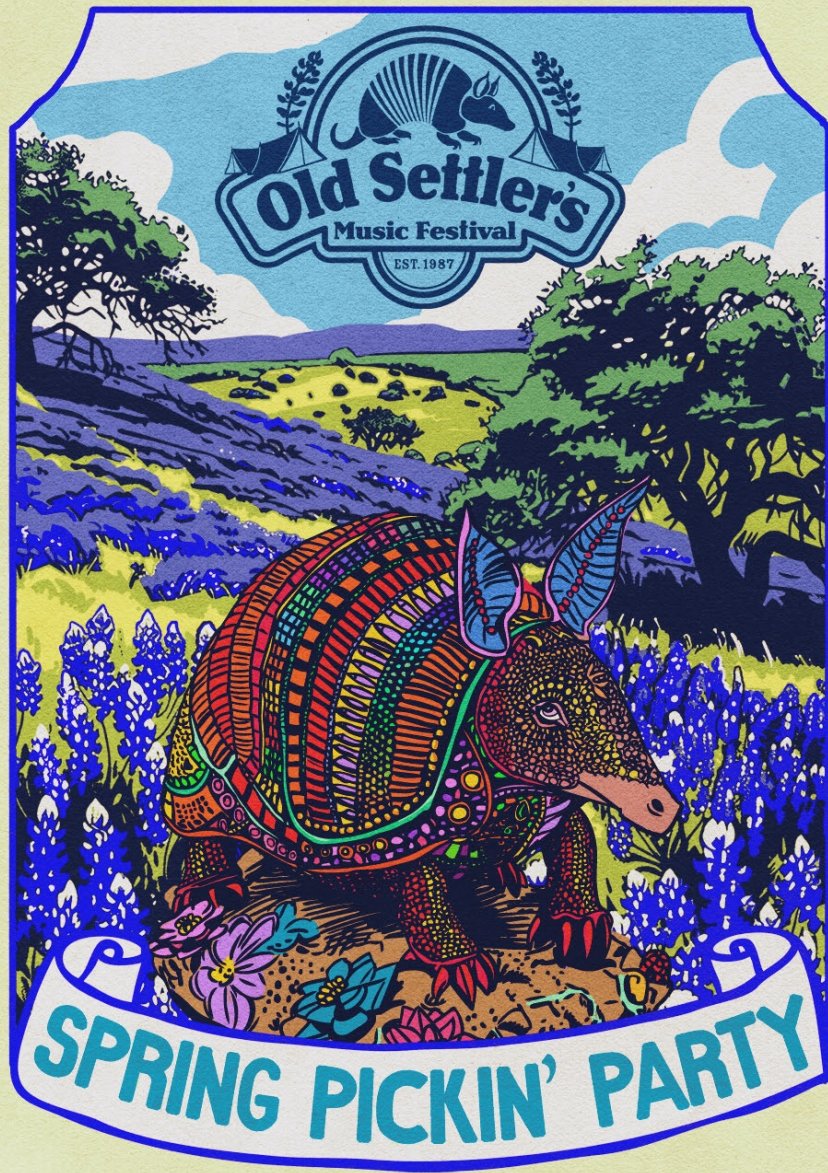
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF PICKIN' AND GRINNIN' IN SUPPORT OF  
CENTRAL TEXAS GROWERS AND FARMERS



**Farmgrass** is back! **May 4th** at **Wild Bunch Brewery**. See y'all there!

## OLD SETTLER'S SPRING PICKIN' PARTY

MAY 9TH - 12TH, 2024 / DALE, TX



Head's up that our good friends at **Old Settler's Music Festival** are hosting a **Spring Pickin' Party** in Dale, TX, on May 9th-12th!

"This year we are planning a small, intimate festival experience with all the fun taking place in Campgrounds Banjo and Collings and on the Campground Stage. Enjoy early entry on Thursday, May 9th beginning at noon. Set up camp and enjoy open mic in the evening. Friday and Saturday are filled with workshops in the morning, music during the day and pickin' circles at night with members of the bands joining in on all the fun! On Sunday, we'll have a special set before everyone breaks down, packs up and heads home."

**Get your tickets now**, we'll see you there!

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**BLUEGRASS HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

*THIS WEEKEND!*



Best Bluegrass Festival in Texas

# BLUEGRASS HERITAGE FESTIVAL FRI-SUN APRIL 5-7

DOUBLETREE DALLAS HOTEL NEAR THE GALLERIA

Saturday Show! **MUST SEE EVENT FOR 2024!**

**KENNY & AMANDA SMITH**

**SALT CREEK** Friday

**BOBBY GILES & TEXAS GALES** Saturday

**THE PURPLE HULLS** SATURDAY & SUNDAY

**TENNESSEE BLUEGRASS BAND**

**THE HERRINS** Friday and Saturday

**RILEY GILBREATH & LONE STAR BLUE** Saturday

**BLUEGRASSHERITAGE.ORG**

Bluegrass Heritage Foundation

And this weekend our friends at the [Bluegrass Heritage Foundation](https://www.bluegrassheritage.org) have their **Bluegrass Heritage Festival!** There are still tickets and hotel rooms available, so get booking...

## ALBUM RELEASE: THE HILLSIDERS

Congratulations to CTBA member-band **The Hillsiders** on the release of their debut album! The Hillsiders - **Andi Southward** (fiddle), **Devon Canady** (guitar), **Hunter Hollingsworth** (mandolin) and **Dom Fisher** (upright bass) - released their eponymous ten-track debut in November 2023, a delightful mix of thoughtfully-crafted covers and old-timey originals. The debut single 'Bluebonnet Blue' and 'Old Cabin Home' were penned by dear friend and former member Phillip Brush. Other highlights include Dom's vocals on

'Paddle Wheels' (co-written with Nashville songwriter Robin Bernard) and 'We Don't Walk Those Floors,' composed by East Texas novelist and musician, TJ Hassell (who also happens to be Andi's mother!). Devon's playing on the classic 'Old Grey Mare' rings out as a charming tribute to Norman Blake. The album closes with a stark, clean, and beautiful 'How Many Prayers,' written by Andi.



The Hillsiders have an exciting festival season this year, including the Eclipse Festival at Thunder Wolf Ranch, the 3rd Annual Luckenbach Bluegrass Festival opening for Ricky Skaggs, the New Folk-Old Folk Festival in Fischer, and more dates to be announced soon. Dates and tickets can be found at [TheHillsiders.com/Shows](https://TheHillsiders.com/Shows). And don't forget to purchase your Bluebonnet Blue t-shirt while you're there! Email [Bookings@TheHillsiders.com](mailto:Bookings@TheHillsiders.com) for more information.

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## ALBUM RELEASE: HIGH FIDELITY

*By Celebrindal Roberts, CTBA Board Member*



**High Fidelity's** newest record on **Rebel Records** is an all-gospel album called **Music In My Soul**. I love this record so much. It's got really fresh song choices, incredible rhythm guitar, and of course the tastiest banjo and fiddle you can hear recorded within the last 20 years. Singing and playing along with this record always makes me feel closer to the Lord.

High Fidelity is coming to **Grapeland, TX**, on **May 23rd** for the **Bluegrass Gospel Festival at Salmon Lake**. They have been playing gospel music since they became High Fidelity at the SPBGMA band contest back in 2014. I'll be in the front row and I can't wait to see them again. Their live show is so exciting and the professionalism of these musicians is truly unforgettable.

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## **IBMA LEADERSHIP BLUEGRASS**

*by Chelsea Burns, CTBA Board Member*

During the first week of March, I had the opportunity to participate in **IBMA's** annual **Leadership Bluegrass** gathering. It was great! The event was filled with information from people who work in all areas of bluegrass across the US: record-label owners, artists, festival organizers, local bluegrass association officers, and more (including some folks I was nervous to be around, some heavy hitters in the scene!). In addition to some excellent jamming together, we talked through some of the central issues that bluegrass participants are facing: challenges related to rising costs and decreasing revenue from streaming (versus physical album sales), received training on licensing and royalties, discussed shifting strategies for venues and festivals, and had broader ongoing conversations about creating a welcoming space for a wide range of musicians and audiences. In addition, this year's cohort spent time focusing on long-term financial challenges for performers, and what resources IBMA could provide to support planning and saving for retirement.

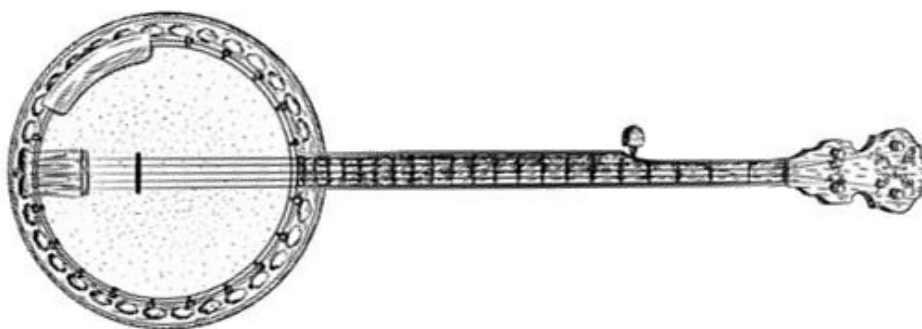


Speaking personally, it was great to meet other association board members, with plans to link up and discuss issues that we all face in terms of how to run local organizations. It gave me a lot to chew on with respect to Central Texas's bluegrass scene. I'm looking forward to ongoing conversations with these people in the coming months and years, and it was a unique opportunity to meet people in corners of the industry that I wouldn't otherwise encounter. For anyone who is thinking about attending, I highly recommend it! And I'm happy to talk more about what to expect and/or how to apply, etc.; **feel free to reach out.**

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## CTBA MEMBER-BANDS

The CTBA is proud to have the following **bands** as members and wholeheartedly recommend them for all of your Central Texas bluegrass needs!



**Austin Monday Nighters**  
**Bird Calls**  
**Black Diamond**  
**Bobby Giles & Texas Gales**  
**Four Fights Per Pint**  
**The Greenlawn Rangers**

**The McKinleys**  
**MoPac Traffic Jams**  
**Randy Collier & Grassland**  
**The Sieker Band**  
**Strawberry Flats**  
**Texas String Assembly**

If your band is interested in becoming a CTBA member, please visit [CentralTexasBluegrass.org/Join](http://CentralTexasBluegrass.org/Join) or contact us at [CTBA@CentralTexasBluegrass.org](mailto:CTBA@CentralTexasBluegrass.org) to learn more.

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## 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  
Country Guitar Online  
Fiddler's Green Music Shop  
Lazarus Brewing Co.  
Madrone Coffee Co.  
Oh Boy! Print Shop

Old Settlers Music Fest  
Shades of Bluegrass  
St. Elmo Brewing Co.  
Texas Bluegrass Music  
Vista Brewing  
Woodtone Strings

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



## 'Possum with the WiFi Password

*By your editor, Julian Root*

For Austin music fans, the 'relaunch' of Armadillo World Headquarters as some sort of 'cultural branding' may be old news. The decision was made last month with Eddie Wilson, who envisioned and operated AWHQ throughout its legendary run in the 1970s. Austin's

soccer/football team/club now has little AWHQ tags on their jerseys. There's apparently more to come. This editor will withhold judgment until we get more of an idea of what's to come. ANYWAY, it's worth noting that among the incredibly diverse range of shows at this armory-turned-hippie hall - from Ravi Shankar to Bruce Springsteen to Count Basie - Bill Monroe and his

Bluegrass Boys played the club a handful of times. In fact, the 50th anniversary of what may have been Bill's first Austin gig was just this past December. And, interestingly, it is quite likely that Houstonian Jim Moratto played banjo for Bill at this gig. Kenny Baker was likely on fiddle. So, the real news here may be the potentially eyebrow-raising 'rebirth' of the Armadillo name, but the bluegrass connection is significant. Things grow up and blow up mighty fast. Wilson told an Associated Press journalist that "the growth rate of Austin is out of control."

...in 1974.

**BILL MONROE**  
and his  
**BLUEGRASS BOYS**

Friday  
and  
Saturday

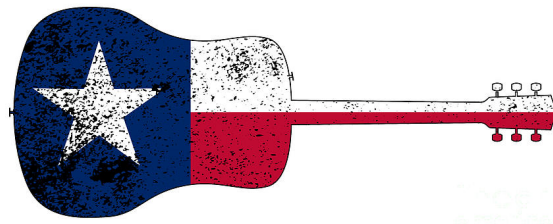
The 22  
and 23 of  
November

at the

...with  
Greezy Wheels

**ARMADILLO**  
WORLD HEADQUARTERS

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