

# Central Texas BLUEGRASS



## Bulletin

VOLUME 26

NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2004

## BOARD NEWS

'Bluegrass in the Schools' is up and running, a show in Luling is to be held on February 7.

We need to find other bands or individual musicians who will be willing to learn the program and play at some of the schools. If you or your band is interested in volunteering, contact: [ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org](mailto:ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org)

The next board meeting will be held the second Sunday of January, which will be the 11th at 6 p.m. Gordon Daugherty will open the meeting, call for the election and installation of officers and directors, and will then pass the meeting to the newly-elected president.



*IN THIS ISSUE: The Rural Roots of Bluegrass*

## WELCOME NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Sarah Jarosz & BlueEyedGrass  
Dr. Bruce Mansbridge  
Gary Jarosz & family  
Fred & Susan Knorre  
John Lambert  
Leo Tiller  
Jane Thorne  
Dennis and Carol McDaniel (Patron)  
Randy Mason  
Stayton Bonner  
Cara Cooke - Blazing Bows

## *Children's Mandolin Roundtable*

Co-Mando.com recently hosted the Children's Mandolin Roundtable. Central Texas's Sarah Jarosz answered questions along with other talented, young eight stringers. Read what Sarah, Sierra Hull, Josh Pinkham, Scott Gates, and Jacob Henry Jolliff have to say about being a child mandolin player.

Visit [www.co-mando.com](http://www.co-mando.com) for more details.



# CENTRAL TEXAS BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

For information on CTBA membership and activities, contact:

**Central Texas Bluegrass Association**  
P. O. Box 9816  
Austin, Tx, 78766-9816

512-261-9440  
email:ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org  
www.centraltexasbluegrass.org

CTBA is a non-profit, tax-exempt  
501 (c) 3 Texas corporation

## RANDALL'S GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

The CTBA number for this program is 9735. If you sign up, Randall's will donate a percentage of your purchases to the CTBA!

### OFFICERS

#### **President**

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johnhood@grandecom.net  
512-376-7767

#### **Vice President**

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### DIRECTORS

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### COMMITTEES

#### **Beginner/Intermediate Jam**

Stephen Mangold

#### **Membership**

Jacque Austin

#### **Webmaster**

Jon Field

bluegrass@cox-internet.com

#### **Central Texas Bluegrass Bulletin**

Editor: Howard Hackney

*Editor's Note: All writers, artists, and photographers retain all copyrights over any work submitted to the Central Texas Bluegrass Bulletin.*

## *CTBA Artists and Bands*

### BOOKING INFORMATION

**Austin Lounge Lizards:** Tom Pittman 512-476-3991

**Blackland Prairie Boys:** Ken Brown 512-795-0981

**Blazing Bows:** Mary Hattersley 512-873-8925 blazingbows@lycos.com

**Brazos Country Grass:** Gary Potter 979-690-6951 gdpotter@startel.net

**Blazing Bows:** Cara Cooke

**Canyon River :** Sonny Herpeche 830-597-5478 flattopdove@yahoo.com

**Cedar Break:** Jon Whitley 830-257-6043 cedarbreakmail@yahoo.com

**Convict Hillbillies:** Bryan Eagle 748-0380 eags@convicthillbillies.com

**Eddie Collins:** 512-836-8255 eddiec@constant.com

**Farm Boys:** Nicholas Dotin 512-657-0285 nicholas@farmershouse.com

**Grazmatics:** Mike Landschoot 512-454-7343

**Hard to Make a Living:** John Hood 512-376-7767 johnhood@grandecom.net

**Ledbetters Band:** S. Drake 210-698-2601 kthdrak1956@wmconnect.com

**Manchaca All-Stars:** B. Buchanan 512-282-2756 manchacaallstars@email.com

**No Strings Attached:** Aubrey Skeen banjo6@earthlink.net

**Pet Rooster:** Jay Richardson 979-297-2709 5rs@quik.com

**Pine Island Station:** Gary & Janine Carter 979-826-4068

**Sarah Jarosz & BlueEyedGrass:** Sarah Jarosz 512-847-6104

mjarosz@austin.rr.com

**Shawn Spiars** 512-218-3928 sspiars@abac.com

**Sieker Band:** Rolf and Beate Sieker 512-733-2857 thesiekers@aol.com

**Stayton Bonner:** 512-431-8443 staytonbonner@hotmail.com

**Steve Boatright Band:** S. Boatright 512-272-8008 scmboatright@msn.com

**3rd Generation Gospelgrass** George Byrnes 210 649-2403

**Wayfarers** Mick Del Greco 210-491-8815 mickdel@juno.com

**Wayward Pony:** Dale Albright 512-267-4969 dale-mandolin@austin.rr.com

**Willa & the Wanderers** Willa Porter 512-497-6780 wlbporter@aol.com

**Max Zimmet:** 512-327-6023 thegarage@swbell.net

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MUST HAVE A CTBA BAND

MEMBERSHIP TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS LISTING.

IF YOU ALREADY ARE A CTBA MEMBER, SIMPLY SEND IN

THE ADDITIONAL \$5.00 TO BECOME A CTBA BAND MEMBER.

### MONTHLY ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page 7"x9"	\$30.00	1/4 page 3"x4"	\$12.50
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Take \$10.00 off above rates if you are a business member.

Copy deadline is the 15th of the month.

Publication on or about the 1st.

Contact the editor at thegarage@swbell.net for more information.

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Steve has authored numerous instruction books and videos for Mel Bay and Homespun. He has several solo CDs to his credit and has recorded and performed with luminaries such as Doc Watson.

Eddie Collins (banjo), with Paul Sweeney (The Banned and Grazmatics) on mandolin and Mark Rubin (Bad Livers and the Ridgetop Syncopators) on bass, will open the show with a never-before-heard sound of Tex-Mex-Grass. Steve will then perform a set of dazzling arrangements. The four will close the show together with an impromptu set of blazing bluegrass.

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e-mail: artzribhouse@juno.com

## Bluegrass Trivia Quiz

by Gordon Daugherty

Who put on the first bluegrass festival?

- 1) Richard F Lewis
- 2) Carlton Haney
- 3) Pete Kuykendall
- 4) Roy Dean Balucek
- 5) Bill Clifton



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**Answer to Trivia:** Depends on what you call a “festival”. The first event that would be recognized as such today was put on by Carlton Haney in 1965 at Fincastle VA, near Roanoke. It lasted 3 days, had workshops, craft sales, contests, and performances by many noted bands of the day.

However, during the summer of 1961, a fellow named Bill Clifton staged a series of country and bluegrass shows every Sunday at Oak Leaf Park in Luray VA. On July 4th, 1961, Clifton put on “Bluegrass Day” which featured a reunion of Bill Monroe and some former Bluegrass Boys, the Stanley Brothers, the Country Gentlemen, Jim and Jesse, and others. Many people consider this the first festival, setting the stage for the full-blown events which came soon after.

Clifton had quite a career, probably unique in bluegrass. Known to the early insiders as one of the originals in the business, he straddled the old-time/folk/bluegrass sector and would probably be better known to the average fan today except for the unusual variety of his life.

He was born in Maryland as William Marburg but adopted the stage name Bill Clifton. By 1949, age 18, he was performing on the Hayloft Jamboree in Charlottesville. A couple of years later he started the Dixie Mountain Boys, which was never a set band but just whomever he got together when he had a gig or recording session. Over the years, the Boys included Ralph Stanley, Mike Seeger, Curley Lambert, John Duffey, Charley Waller and other solid players of the time who are not so well-known now. Clifton was a fast, Carter-style guitar player and, unusual for the time, featured guitar breaks on many of his songs (this is before guitarists like Clarence White introduced the world to “flat-pickin’”).

In 1955, he published “150 Old-Time Folk and Gospel Songs” which circulated widely among bluegrass musicians. He was known for finding good old-time and traditional songs and trying to give them commercial exposure. He was particularly fond of the Carter Family and recorded 22 of their songs.

In 1963, he was one of the founding directors of the Newport Folk Festival, in charge of organizing the bluegrass acts at the festival and thus had a large role in introducing urban folkies to performers like Flatt and Scruggs (\*).

Somewhere along the way he got an MBA at the University of Virginia and had a day job as a stockbroker. But, going to England in 1963, he realized he could make a living off music.

The trip to England was a result of the success of the Newport Festival and Clifton went over to help organize a similar affair. He began performing in clubs, on radio-TV, and bringing American bands over for tours. When some of his American records were released in England, he found he was a hit and landed a weekly program on the BBC.

So he stayed for 15 years. With the BBC broadcasting all over Europe, he played on the Continent and even in the Soviet Union. Every few years, he’d return home to record. In 1966, he took a few years off and served in the Peace Corps in the Phillipines, recorded and performed in New Zealand, then moved back to the US for good in 1978.

Finding himself relatively unknown after all those years away, it took a while to get back in the game but he eventually released some 40 albums world-wide and a bunch of 45 rpm singles in the 1950s. One of his songs, “I’ll Be There Mary Dear” is in the Smithsonian collection, “Classic Country Music”, and he received the IBMA Award of Merit in 1992.

If you want to get a feel for this guy and the music before it was called “bluegrass” (see November’s Trivia Quiz), check out “Bill Clifton: The early years 1957-1958”, Rounder CD1021, a collection of his early 45s. And be sure not to miss his banjo player, Johnny Clark, on “Cedar Grove”, cut #14.

(\*) In an interview, Clifton described himself as a ‘founding’ director of the ‘63 festival, yet the first Newport Folk Festival was in 1959. The bluegrass acts then were the Stanley Brothers (see their album “Clinch Mountain Bluegrass”) and Earl Scruggs, who appeared with Hylo Brown and the Timberliners rather than Lester Flatt and the Foggy Mountain Boys. The Folk Festivals of ‘59 and ‘60 were money-losers and there was a riot at the 1960 Newport Jazz Festival so things were cancelled until 1963. The Folk Festival reopened in ‘63 under a non-profit foundation and there’s no doubt Clifton was one of the directors of that, as his name is mentioned in program notes and reviews of the festival.

The ‘63 Folk Festival drew 40,000 fans, a huge improvement, and this doubled by ‘65. By 1970 the festival had grown so large and disruptive that community pressure forced it to close and it did not return until the ‘90s.

I am almost certain the first time I heard Earl Scruggs...my moment of epiphany...was off a friend’s Vanguard LP of the 1960 festival—“Flint Hill Special”.



## Book Review: *The Rural Roots of Bluegrass*

By H. Hackney

I recently acquired "The Rural Roots of Bluegrass", a new book by Wayne Erbsen of Asheville, North Carolina. Detailed in it is the life of the music that would become known as bluegrass music. Wayne Erbsen has written a book that has fascinating histories of not only the singers but also of the songs of early country music.

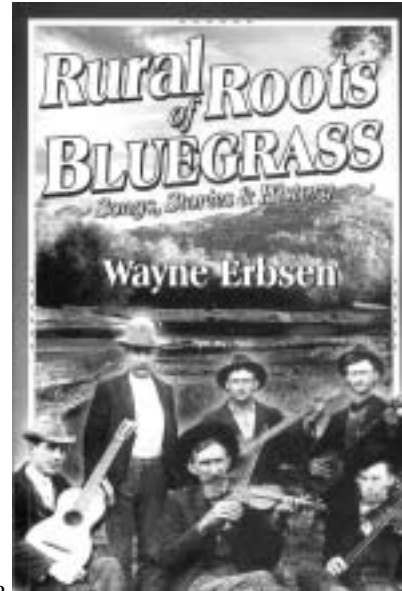
This collection takes a deep look at bluegrass music to uncover its true roots: ballads of early pioneers, Scots-Irish fiddle tunes, black spirituals, plantation melodies, blues, murder ballads, sentimental parlor songs from Tin Pan Alley, North Carolina banjo styles and gospel songs.

However, this is not just a musical history book, it is also a fully functional song book with the chords, lyrics and notation to 94 songs. This is the kind of reading you'll want to do with a guitar or a banjo or the instrument of your choice on your lap.

The book is packed with information and there are pages and pages of great, old photos.

This book is a lot of fun and I would recommend it for anyone's library or music stand.

The book sells for \$14.95 (plus \$3.50 for shipping) and you can reach Wayne or his wife Barbara at [www.nativeground.com](http://www.nativeground.com), or write to him at Native Ground Music, 109 Bell Road, Asheville, NC 28805, or you can call at (800) 752-2656.



**Rick Star**

Program Director

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# CALENDAR

## LOCAL SHOWS

Jan 4, To Be Announced, CTBA Jam 2-5, Artz RibHouse  
 Jan 10, Peter Keane, Artz RibHouse  
 Jan 10, 11-11 String Band, Cafe Mundi, 9pm  
 Jan 11, Grazmatics, CTBA Jam 2-5, Artz RibHouse  
 Jan 15, Willa & the Wanderers, Artz RibHouse  
 Jan 15, HTML, Triple Crown, San Marcos, 6pm  
 Jan 17, Seiker Band, Artz RibHouse  
 Jan 18, Bert Rivera, CTBA Jam 2-5, Artz RibHouse  
 Jan 22, Jim Stringer, Artz RibHouse  
 Jan 21, Brazos Country Grass, Carriage Inn, 6:30 Bryan, TX  
 Jan 25, Eddie Collins, CTBA Jam 2-5, Artz RibHouse  
 Jan 25th, Pine Island Station, Ovations, Houston, TX 713-654-7707  
 Jan 31, Steve Kaufman, Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church, 7:00

\*Artz Rib House: 2330 S. Lamar, Austin 512 442-8283

Please submit your bands show dates to the CTBA Newsletter editor at soapycows@hotmail.com.

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Jan 24, AFTM Mid-Winter Music Festival, Dougherty Arts Center  
 Jan. 30th & 31st, 2004, Steve Kaufman, two-day, 8-hour guitar workshop, Artz Ribhouse.. \$80. A deposit of \$40 holds your spot. Email or call Eddie Collins for information: eddiec@constant.com, 512-836-8255.

Please contact venues for up to date information.

Please email (soapycows@hotmail.com) or call (512-291-9280) the editor to have your show(s) listed.



## JOIN CTBA TODAY

*A one year membership includes a subscription to the Central Texas Bluegrass Bulletin.  
 Business membership includes a business card advertisement in each issue.  
 Band membership includes a Booking Info listing.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
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### PLEASE NOTE THAT LISTENERS AND PICKERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN

Please contact me about volunteering  Please send the Bulletin as  PDF file  Hard copy

Note that the following amounts are the minimum contribution amounts.

Type of Membership:  New  Renewal  Individual (\$20)  Family (\$25)  Band (\$25)  
 Patron (\$30)  Business/Sustaining (\$50)  Student (\$15)

For Family, Band, and Patron Memberships, please append a list of the members of your family or band.

I do not want my name and contact information included in a CTBA Membership Directory or in the CTBA mailing list, which may be exchanged with other music and arts related organizations.

**Mail your check and application to: CTBA P. O. Box 9816, Austin, TX, 78766-9816**

*Contributions to CTBA are tax deductible as allowed by Internal Revenue Service Code Section 501 (c) (5).*



## TBA AREA ONGOING EVENTS

### AUSTIN AREA

#### CTBA

• **Beginner/Intermed. Jam**  
1st & 3rd Thursday 7-9 pm  
Steve Mangold 512-345-6155

• **CTBA Jam Session**  
Sunday at Artz Rib House  
2-5 pm, 512-442-8283

#### ARTZ RIB HOUSE

• **Live Bluegrass Show**  
2330 S. Lamar, Sunday 6:00 pm  
512-442-8283

#### AAAMS JAM

• 2nd + 4th Wed, Anderson Mill  
Baptist Church, 10633 Lake Creek  
Pkwy 259-7702 for more info

#### AFTM (Austin Friends of Traditional Music)

• **Contra Dance**  
3rd Sat., Lutheran church at 3501  
Red River 8-11 pm, \$7, 462-0511

• **AFTM Jam Session**  
2nd Sun at Threadgill's South  
Barton Springs & Riverside, 2pm

#### SMITHVILLE

• **WayStation Opry**  
1st Sat, 205 NE 2nd, 6 pm, Steve  
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#### BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION

• **Jam Session**  
Monday: 6:00 to 8:00 pm  
Buppy's Catering 979-690-6951

• **Jam Session and BG Show**  
2nd Sat: Jam-4pm, Show-7pm  
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#### CHRIESMAN

• **Jam**  
3rd Sat: 7-10 pm

Chriesman Community Center  
Don Cook 979-567-0573

#### CLEBURNE

• **Show & Jam**  
3rd Fri Cleburne Civic Center,  
1501 W Henderson (Hwy 67) 7 pm,  
\$3 www.geocities.com/ntbbbluegrass

#### GARLAND

• **Bluegrass on the Square**  
Sat- March thru October between  
Main and State Sts. at 6th, 7:30-  
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#### GEORGETOWN

**Georgetown On the Square Jam**  
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contact Jon, 512-869-8076

#### GRANITE SHOALS

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#### HARWOOD

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Hwy 90, 2-9 pm,  
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#### LEAGUE CITY (BABA)

• **Jam & Free Bluegrass Show**  
3rd. Sat: Jam 5pm, Show 6:30  
Jan-Nov, League City Civic  
Center, 300 W. Walker St.  
713-990-5171

#### PARIS

• **Jam & Stage Show**  
3rd Sat: Jam 5:00, Show 7:00  
Chisum HS, Hwy 19 & 24, south  
of Paris \$5-members \$6-others  
Brenda Burks 903-784-8859

#### PEARL

• **Jam & Stage Show**  
1st Sat: Jam 12:00, Show 4:30  
Hwy 183, 7 mi. south of Purmela  
Ronald Medart 254-865-6013

#### ROCKNE

• **Bluegrass/Country Jam**  
1st Sat: 3pm til ..., 8 mi. S. of  
Cedar Creek on FM 535

#### TOMBALL

• **Spring Creek Club Jam/Show**  
4th Sat: 5pm-jam, 7pm-show  
Oklahoma Community Center,  
NE of Tomball 281 376-2959

#### SAN ANTONIO

• **Contra Dances**  
3rd Sat: 7:30 pm, International  
Folk Culture Center at Our  
Lady of the Lake Univ.  
512-434-6711, ext. 407

#### SOUR LAKE (Beaumont)

• **Jam & Free Show**  
Southeast Tx BG Music Assn  
3rd Sat: 4pm, Elementary  
School, Hwy 326 S.  
Edy Mathews 409-755-0622

#### WIMBERLEY

• **Bluegrass Jam**  
Fri: 8-12 pm, Charlie's Catfish



The Central Texas Bluegrass Association

P.O. Box 9816

Austin, TX 78766

