

Central Texas BLUEGRASS Bulletin



VOLUME 26

NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 2004

Beyond the Basics of Bluegrass Banjo

Sunday, October 24th, 6:00 – 8:30 P.M. Eddie Collins' book release party (Beyond the Basics of Bluegrass Banjo) will be at Artz Ribhouse (2330 S. Lamar). This 2nd Annual "All Banjo – All Night" celebration will include scores of banjo players dropping by to pick tunes – 37 performers participated last year. 4- and 5-string banjos will be represented in bluegrass, old-time, jazz and ragtime styles. There will be both solo and ensemble performances. Eddie will also give a rare performance of special solo banjo pieces. All banjo players and fans will be eligible for special prizes (Dinners, T-shirts, CDs, Books, Strings, etc.) from Artz Ribhouse, South Austin Music, Sugar Hill Records, and others. Contact Eddie for more info: 512-836-8255. tuneman@texas.net.

Bobby Thompson's new CD "Thompson Picks"

Bobby Thompson has a considerable musical legacy. He was in great demand as a studio musician in Nashville, recording with too many names to mention them all here, but we'll name a few:

Johnny Cash, Marty Robbins, Jim & Jesse, Hank Snow, Tammy Wynette, Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, Loretta Lynn, Bill Monroe, Dolly Parton, Perry Como, Eddy Arnold, Les Paul, Connie Smith, Merle Haggard, Trini Lopez, the Monkees, Olivia Newton-John, Melanie, Jimmy Buffett, Dr Hook, Leon Russell, Neil Young and many others.

Bobby also played banjo on the Theme from "Hee Haw" and movie soundtracks "Coal Miners' Daughter", "Five Easy Pieces", "Smokey & the Bandit I&II", "Urban Cowboy"

and others. In addition, he has played his banjo on those catchy little music "jingles" for practically every major company you can imagine.

Some of Bobby's best work was recorded with two of the best original bands to come out of Nashville. First he was a member of Area Code 615. This was the Dream Team of cutting edge musicians in Music City in the late sixties. His version of Mason William's Classical Gas is just amazing, he played banjo runs on these recordings that leave the best players in town shaking their heads still to this day. Later he became a member of the southern cult band Barefoot Jerry. With friends Wayne Moss, Charlie McCoy, Russ Hicks and others, they wrote and performed songs that were years ahead of their time.

Visit www.bobbythompsonbanjo.com to order your copy!



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
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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!

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mejane@yaho.com
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Howard Hackney
soapycows@hotmail.com

COMMITTEES

Beginner/Intermediate Jam

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Membership

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Webmaster

George Rios
ctba@centraltexasbluegrass.org

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

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

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

Cedar Break: David Wilson 830-257-6043 cedarbreakmail@yahoo.com

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

Cooper's Uncle: toddmichael311@hotmail.com

Cumberland Gap: Gary Potter 979-690-6951 gdpotter@startel.net

Eddie Collins: 512-836-8255 tuneman@texas.net

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: Janine Carter 979-826-4068 j9carter@vectorlink.net

Red Eye: Randy Collier 512-423-70918 randyc@comp-utility.com

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 Brenda McGlothlin
830-914-4810 threegenerationgospelgrass@juno.com

Wayfarers Mick Del Greco 210-479-5980 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
1/2 Page 7"x4"	\$15.00	1/8 page 3.5"x2"	\$10.00

Take \$10.00 off above rates if you are a business member.

Copy deadline is the 20th of the month.

Publication on or about the 1st.

Contact the editor at soapycows@hotmail.com for more info.

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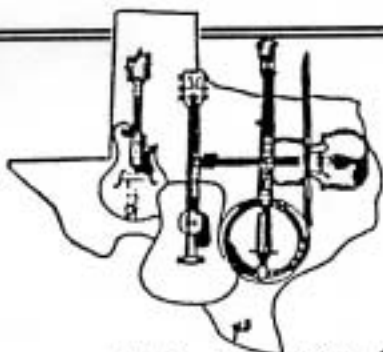
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Thursday \$ 8.00

Friday \$12.00

Saturday \$15.00

Children Under 12 FREE

Ticket prices are quoted per person. To order advance tickets send check to Spring Creek Bluegrass Club

MUSIC ON STAGE

Thur. 7-11pm • Fri. 1-11pm • Sat. 1-11pm

Vocal workshop 11am - Sat - Open Stage 10am

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Comfort Suites - Brenham (979) 421-8100

FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION

Spring Creek Bluegrass Club

PO Box 1294 - Bellville, TX 77418-1294

Phone: (979) 865-5250 • (713) 419-5371

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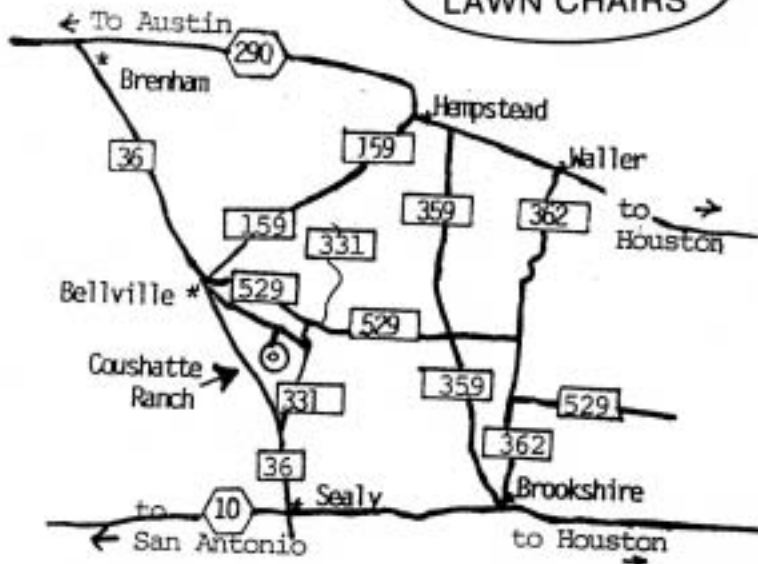
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Curly Seckler, Bill Vernon To Be Inducted into Bluegrass Hall of Honor

IBMA is proud to announce two inductees to the Bluegrass Music Hall of Honor for 2004: first generation bluegrass pioneer Curly Seckler and renowned bluegrass radio broadcaster and historian, the late Bill Vernon. The inductions will be one of the high-points of this year's International Bluegrass Music Awards Show slated for October 7, at the Kentucky Center in Louisville, Ky.

The mention of Curly Seckler's name brings with it an instant connection to Bluegrass Hall of Honor members Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs. Specifically, Seckler's peers in the industry and long-time fans will recall the pivotal role his tenor voice played in the Foggy Mountain Boys sound. Seckler was a member of Flatt & Scruggs' Foggy Mountain Boys during three separate stints totaling 11 years, from 1949-1962. His duets with Lester Flatt during this time rank high among bluegrass music's classic vocals, and he also greatly enhanced trio and quartet combinations.

Seckler was heard by millions every week on syndicated television, as well as daily radio shows on WSM and The Grand Ole Opry, a heavy personal appearance schedule and enviable exposure on a major record label.

After an 11 year hiatus from performing, Seckler returned to the music business as a member of Lester Flatt's Nashville Grass from 1973-79. After Flatt's death in 1979 until around 1995, true to his promise to Lester to continue the band, Curly continued performing and recording as "Curly Seckler & The Nashville Grass," hiring Willis Spears in 1981 as lead singer. In 1987 Seckler and Willis became partners, and they led the band together until Curly's retirement in 1994.

Seckler began his career in the late 1930s around his birthplace, China Grove, N.C., later performing with both Charlie Monroe and Mac Wiseman. By 1949 he had teamed up briefly with Danny Bailey, performed on The Grand Ole Opry with The Cope Brothers and briefly joined Jim & Jesse and The Virginia Boys—making a recording with the latter group for Capitol Records. During this period he also worked with The Stanley Brothers and The Sauceman Brothers.

Curly's songwriting credits include "A Purple Heart," "What's The Matter Now?" "That Old Book of Mine" and a collaboration with Flatt, "No Mother or Dad." He recorded for the CMH, Folkways, Rich-R-Tone, Revonah, County and Vine Street record labels.

Born July 4, 1937 in New York City, Bill Vernon was urged by his family to follow his father into the corporate tax attorney business and was sent to an exclusive Eastern prep school for his education. Bill was distracted at Brown University; part of the reason was at age 14 he heard Lester Flatt & Curly Seckler singing "We Can't Be Darlings Anymore" on his father's car radio. Vernon told friends years later that he knew then and there he wanted to be involved in the kind of music they were singing and he would never be happy doing anything else. At 21, Bill Vernon took a job as a clerk with a Wall Street firm and while there began a part-time job in 1964 as a country music disc jockey at radio station WBAI in New York City. After 12 years on Wall Street he quit his job in 1970 to work at a country station in Dover, Del. While there, he began to emcee area bluegrass festivals on weekends and started writing record reviews for Muleskinner News magazine.

Bill's reputation spread, and he continued to emcee at larger festivals, including those in Bean Blossom, Ind.; Berryville, Va.; Camp Springs, N.C.; Stuart, Va.; McClure, Va. and the Berkshire Mountain festival in New York. As a journalist, he freelanced for publications like Pickin', Muleskinner News and Bluegrass Unlimited, in addition to writing a number of album liner notes.

Following a desire to be closer to the region from which bluegrass spawned, he learned about a radio opening at WYTI in Rocky Mount, Va., from Jim Eanes. He started there in December of 1973, and except for two years at a rival station in town, remained at WYTI until his death of a heart attack on November 20, 1996, at age 59.

Vernon also hosted radio shows in Floyd and Roanoke, Va. and Charlottesville, N.C. during this time. He was content with his job at Rocky Mount because the station owner gave him free rein to play bluegrass and traditional country songs of his choosing. Bill encouraged talent on all levels and in various aspects of the industry. Vernon was known for his comprehensive knowledge and amazing retention of intricate details from the history of bluegrass music and its people—often inserting in conversation, stage introductions or print, topical spontaneous witticisms or good-natured barbs directed at whomever he felt deserved them.



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A short and a long (and thanks to 'Song Dude'):

a) Name the two Monroe fiddlers who had classical musical training.

b) What is/was a 'salty dog'?

("Let me be your salty dog or I won't be your man at all ...")

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a) The fiddlers (violinists?) were Richard Greene and Gene Lowinger. They probably had a boost with the band's repertoire since Monroe expected his bandmen to play in just about any key. This could put some serious strain on those who'd learned from relatives, friends or by ear. As one old-timer said: *"If you could play in G, C, and D that would just about get it."*

b) Short answer: Nowadays, nobody knows for sure.

In 1935, Zeke Morris wrote and copyrighted "Let Me Be Your Salty Dog", later "Salty Dog Blues", and recorded it with his brother Wiley in 1938. It became the signature song for the Morris Brothers and over the years they made more money off residuals than they did performing or recording.

Zeke said the idea came after winning at a slot machine in a café called the "Salty Dog". Wiley said, no, when they were boys in Old Fort NC they'd see a pretty girl and say, "I'd like to be her salty dog!" Wade Mainer, who'd known them forever, said, no, the *"... song was created way, way back by the Shelton Brothers ... I remember that song many, many years before [1935]."*

Maybe back to 1924, to "Papa" Charlie Jackson, a Chicago jazz and blues man who played a 6-string banjo tuned like a guitar and could finger pick, flat pick, and strum chords fast enough to play the melody. Typical of his time, Jackson often played "hokum", raunchy music with lyrics often having both an innocent and an indecent meaning—"Shake That Thing" and "Baby, Papa Needs His Lovin'" were a couple. He wrote and recorded "Salty Dog Blues" in 1924 for Paramount Records.

Or maybe back to "Candy Man" by the Reverend Gary Davis, who first heard that song about 1905, containing the line, *"If you can't be my candy man, can't be my salty dog."* Many think the line refers to a street woman bargaining with a prospective client.

What's a salty dog? Best guess is that, eight or ten decades ago, it was either a non-specific vulgar term, varying from singer to singer, or "boy friend" with an X-rated connotation. Now it's just a song you hear at jam sessions.



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CALENDAR

LOCAL SHOWS

October

- Oct. 8 - Friday - Manchaca All Stars at the Manchaca Firehall (on FM 1626 just west of where Manchaca Rd. dead-ends into FM 1626) - 7:30pm until 10pm (or so) - all-you-can-eat catfish fry, restaurant, and free bluegrass. Request a harmonica tune!! No cover.
- Oct. 16 - Saturday - Bluegrass harmonica workshop to be given by Cara Cooke at the monthly gathering of the Bay Area Bluegrass Association (www.bayareabluegrass.org <<http://www.bayareabluegrass.org/>>) in League City, Tx. -
- Friday Oct 15, Max Zimmet Casa De Luz on , starts at 6:30
- Oct. 16 - Saturday - Cara Cooke & Doug Taylor will play a show highlighting bluegrass harmonica at the Bay Area Bluegrass Association (www.bayareabluegrass.org <<http://www.bayareabluegrass.org/>>) monthly show and jam.
- Saturday, 16, 3rd Generation Gospelgrass Texas Pride BBQ St. Hedwig 1604/1518 4:30-7:00pm
- Saturday October 30, 3rd Generation Gospelgrass Texas Pride BBQ St. Hedwig 1604/1518 4:30-7:00pm
- Sunday, Oct 17, Sarah Jarosz & BlueEyedGrass 1:45 p.m. - Benefit for KOOP Radio "Strictly Bluegrass" - Mother Egan's Pub, Austin
- Oct 23, Jon Kempainen, Max Zimmet, John Hood and other guests will be playing at the Hog Eye Festival in Elgin, from 1-5 pm
- Friday Oct 29th, Max Zimmet Casa De Luz on , starts at 6:30

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

October

- 1-3 Wickett TX, Annual Wickett Bluegrass Festival
- 6-8 Waldron AR, Harvest Time Bluegrass Festival, 479-637-3717
- 7-10 Kirksville MO 31st SPBGMA Bluegrass Showcase of BAnds, 660-665-7172
- 8-9 Mexia TX Jack's Creek Bluegrass Festival. Confederate Renuin Grounds State Historical Park, 254-375-2472
- 8-10 Sayre OK, Dyson Bluegrass Festival 580-928-5909
- 14-17 Atlanta TX carver's Fall Bluegrass Festival, 903-796-5487
- 20-23 wynnewood OK, Arbuckle Bluegrass Festival, Arbuckle Bluegrass Park, 406-665-5226
- 28-30 Glen Rose TX, Fall Bluegrass Festival, Tres Rios River Ranch, 817-291-5621, www.tresrioscamping.com
- 28-30 Bellville, TX Spring Creek Bluegrass Festival, Coughatte Ranch, 979-865-550, www.springcreekbluegrass.com

Catch COOPER'S UNCLE every Thursday at Stubb's on Red River at 6:30!

Attention all bands and musicians,
 email the editor to announce your show by the 20th of each month! You can also submit articles, photographs, songs or tablature or any other ideas you think might be good in the CTBA Bulletin. Authors/artists always retain copyright of submitted materials.
email: soapycows@hotmail.com

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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 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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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).

FREE CD with an additional donation of \$10 or more

CTBA 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 258-5843,

Leander Jam, Friday, 7-9, 260-8838

AFTM

• **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
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MOTHER EGAN'S

7-10, 2nd and 4th Wednesday's,
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CHRIESMAN

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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

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• **Jam**

4th Saturday
Thumper's Roadhouse Grill
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GARLAND

• **Bluegrass on the Square**

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M. Anderson 512-282-1215

HARWOOD

• **Stage Show & Jam Session**

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Hwy 90, 2-9 pm,
Ben Buchanan 512-263-7193

LULING

• **Bluegrass Jam Session/Show**

1st Sat every month, 200
E. Travis, 4:00, 830-875-2917

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

LIBERTY HILL 4th Saturday

Jam Session at 1 pm
until....., Hwy 29 West.,
Contact Paula at 512-778-
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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
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PFLUGERVILLE

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TOMBALL

• **Spring Creek Club Jam/Show**

4th Sat: 5pm-jam, 7pm-show
Oklahoma Community Center,
NE of Tomball 939-865-5250

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

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WIMBERLEY • **Bluegrass Jam**

Fri: 8-12 pm, Charlie's Catfish
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The Central Texas Bluegrass Association

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