



Reel Times

Newsletter of
The Austin Friends of Traditional Music
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Thanks, Jeanne!

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Jeanne DeFriese - An Appreciation

Thank you, Jeanne, for 15 years of fantastic Austin String Band Festivals!

I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of the things that Jeanne DeFriese has done with love and passion as she headed up the Austin String Band Festival, and to thank her from my happy heart! Jeanne has served the Austin Friends of Traditional Music with much passion and devotion for many years as the Festival Director and Events Coordinator; now she is passing the baton to Gary Mortensen who will lead a team to plan and execute the Austin String Band Festival for the next 2 years.

Jeanne gave this position her all, visiting traditional music festivals all over the country where she met with many musicians and dance callers. This personal presence gave her an ability to bring in a vast array of talent through friendship to the music festivals you have all enjoyed so much over the years. This has resulted in our Austin String Band Festival becoming a well respected and much loved event outside of Texas and in parts of the country where traditional string band music gets more audience. Performers from Louisiana, Colorado, Kansas, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, New York, and New Mexico, to name a few, have been represented at AFTM events, sharing the stage with our very talented local bands and other bands from all parts of Texas.

The musical connections our members have made through Jeanne have grown us all. We have had opportunities to jam with some fantastic musicians, learning new tunes and styles, and we have shared tunes and songs from our home with them. Much of this occurred at some well-planned workshops held at the Austin String Band Festival, led by our guest musicians. Jeanne arranged these workshops and they have been a big success!

So much goes on behind the scenes to produce a music festival; it can be stressful as well as fun. There is the consideration of providing the best sound engineers (Pink Sound) to give the performers wonderful sound with short set up intervals. Jeanne cleverly set up mini-sets to occur during the stage changes; this feature introduced new performers to our audience. She considered travel arrangements and housing for participants from out of town, often offering her home and wonderful cooking. She spent hours arranging and providing transportation to and from airports and festival grounds. She juggled the schedule on short notice to fill gaps as needed.

She set up audience participation events, like “dance ‘til you drop” on festival Fridays. She added activities for children to make the 2-day event family friendly and festive for all.

Jeanne has had considerable help from the board members and a host of volunteers over the years. These special people deserve standing ovations.

I could write on and on about all of them and never express enough gratitude. Thanks, Jeanne, for sticking with AFTM through everything, both the good and the difficult times. You gave your all for many years crafting a very fine and well-loved string band music festival right here in Central Texas!

Angie Wooten,
AFTM Board Member



The Austin String Band Festival Fifteenth Edition!



Mira Dickey and Northfolk performed on Saturday afternoon

After taking a two-year hiatus courtesy of the COVID pandemic, the Austin String Band Festival was back in a big way in October, 2022!

Beautiful warm, sunny days and balmy evenings made this year's event particularly enjoyable, and the combination of wonderful performers, extensive campground jamming and socializing, and lots and lots of dancing made for a fabulous weekend at Camp Ben McCulloch, just outside Austin!

in the next few pages, we look back on the wonderful 2022 edition of the Austin String Band Festival!



Georgia Canfield, Angie Wooten, and Sharon Sandomirsky work on "Farther Along"



The campground was filled with jamming!



Reba and Chuck Middleton looking good in their ASBF T-shirts!



The Women of Western Swing played on Saturday night!



Plenty of kids' activities on Saturday afternoon



The joy of dancing!



Mark Lewis, Molly Johnson, and Ben Hayes played a great mini-set!



Mark Pluta, Ginger Evans, and Jamie Stubblefield played before a roaring faux fire!



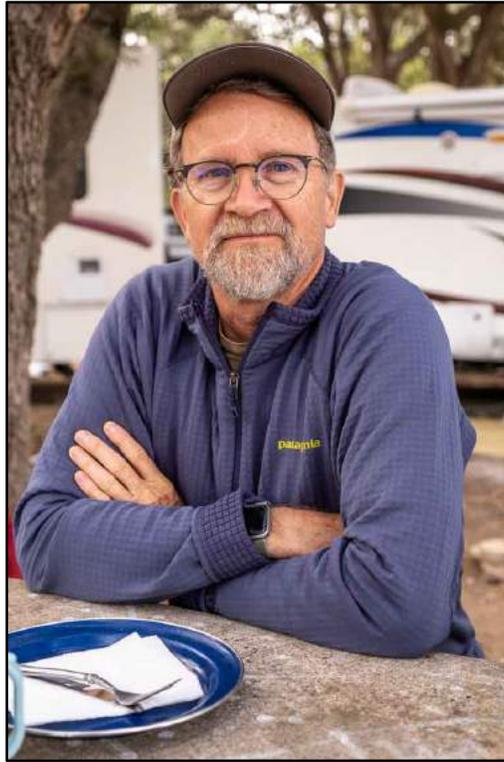
Two dancers cut loose, to the tunes of the Women of Western Swing



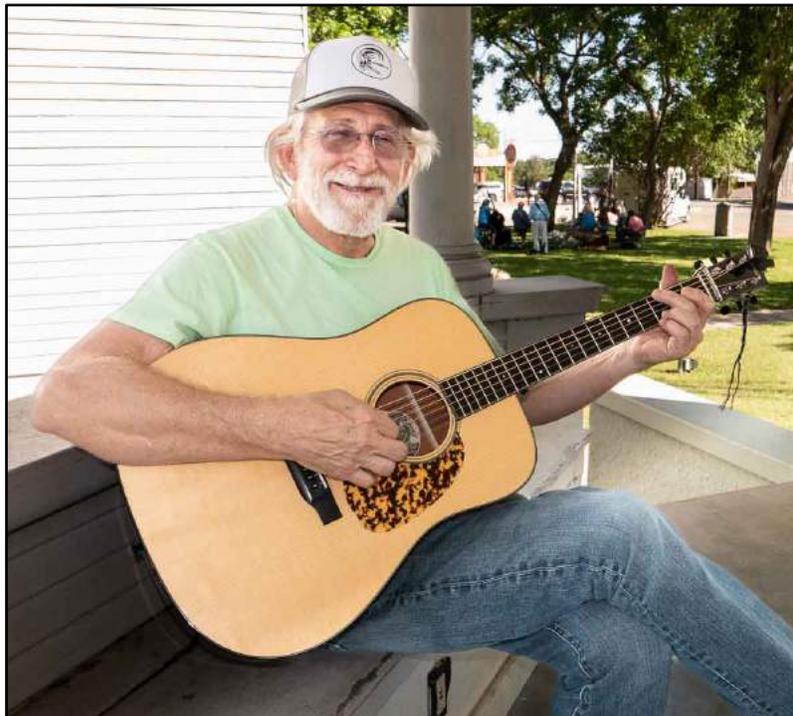
Howard Rains and Isaiah Sibi played "The Beaumont Rag"

This year, as we did after the 2019 ASBF, the AFTM sent out a questionnaire about the festival to our mailing list, and we picked one of the responses at random to win a free admission to the next ASBF!

In 2019 the winner was Will Grover, who happily cashed in his free admission this year. This year's winner was Steven Crow, who'll get a free admission to the 2023 ASBF!



Will Grover



Steven Crow

The 8th Annual Festival of Texas Fiddling!



Six time Grand Champion fiddler, Katrina Nicolayeff, played an exhilarating set!

On the first Saturday in December, many AFTM members made the trek to the beautiful Twin Sisters Dance Hall outside of Blanco, TX. This year's festival was (again) blessed with excellent weather and phenomenal music!

The next two pages feature some photos from this year's Festival of Texas Fiddling.



Epi Martinez and his mother, Cruz, made spirited Conjunto music!



Luke Bulla played a fantastic set of fiddle tunes and songs!



Musicians take the stage at the wonderful Twin Sisters Dance Hall



Austin Derryberry played a fine set of old time tunes!

Lonesome Nights at the Sahara



Silas Lowe and Beth Chrisman get things going at the Sahara Lounge!

We at the AFTM were excited when our friends at KOOP, Austin's Community Radio, invited us to participate in their ongoing monthly event, Lonesome Nights at the Sahara! This event, sponsored by Thundercloud Subs, take place at east Austin's Sahara Lounge, and the AFTM was able to feature two of our members' groups on a balmy December evening, between Christmas and New Year's.

The Two Goats String Band, originally scheduled to perform, had to cancel at the last moment due to illness and one of the members being stranded due to the airline crisis. On very short notice, the talented duo of Silas Lowe and Beth Chrisman agreed to take the spot, and played a great set of originals and cover tunes, all very country!

Christy and the Plowboys played the second set, joined by the wonderful Maryann Price. Their performance included (somewhat) obscure fiddle tunes, and songs by the likes of the Georgia Wildcats and the Austin music legend, John Clay.

The turnout was excellent, and a good time was had by all. Thanks, KOOP, for giving us the opportunity to share our traditional music with a wider audience!



KOOP's Dennis Campa and Max Yancy get the DJ turntables up and running



Silas Lowe and Beth Chrisman in action!



Maryann Price's new pair of brushes got everyone's attention!



Christy and the Plowboys were joined by Maryann Price



Maryann Price seemed to enjoy being a Plowboy!



Dan Foster, Lee Thomas, Christy Palumbo Foster, and Janita Thomas felt right at home at the Sahara Lounge!

March 18, 2023 - Hold the date!



Return of the AFTM Camp Jam!

After the pandemic year of 2020, and the uncertainties about COVID rearing its ugly head once again, our regular 2021 Austin String Band Festival at Camp Ben McCulloch was "reimagined" into a different kind of event, without regular stage shows, merchandise, or admission fees! The result was a casual, comfortable gathering of like minded pickers, and jamming and socializing were the order of the day!

We called it the AFTM Camp Jam and the response was so positive that we wanted to hold the event again in the spring of 2022. Alas, all the weekends in 2022 at Camp Ben had been reserved for other events, and there was no Camp Jam last year.

Looking ahead to next year, the AFTM has reserved Camp Ben McCulloch for Saturday, March 18, 2023! As with the 2021 Camp Jam, there will be no admission charge, though Camp Ben will charge campers their usual fees.

So, mark your calendars and plan to join Austin area pickers for a weekend of music and good times in the beautiful setting of Camp Ben McCulloch!



The Carper Family performing at Sagebrush in Austin in October

Since Melissa Carper, Jenn Miori-Hodges, and Beth Chrisman got together back in 2010, the Carper Family has been a great favorite of Austin area acoustic music fans. This wonderful trio played classic country tunes alongside brilliant original compositions, all three women sharing lead singing duties, and combining for exquisite three part harmonies!

In the past few years, we haven't been able to see them perform often, due to the many individual projects the members have been working on.

So, it was great news when it was announced that the Carper Family would hold a Tuesday night residency at the Sagebrush in south Austin.

Many AFTM members attended these Tuesday performances in October, and the music was as wonderful as ever!

2023 AFTM Scholarships

AFTM Scholarships

Each year the Austin Friends of Traditional Music makes available a scholarship to promising musicians and dancers who wish to further their studies of old time music and dance.

2023 Scholarships

The Austin Friends of Traditional Music (AFTM) is now offering to pay tuition, housing, and meals for attendance at the Swannanoa Gathering Old Time Week, July 16-22, 2023 (Swannanoa will only allow fully vaccinated persons to attend). This is a one-week training opportunity for traditional musicians.

Alternatively, an applicant may select on-line musical training from the recommended list of providers on our website, or may propose an alternative training opportunity for board approval. The musical training may be for any instrument (or voice) but must be traditional in nature.

Scholarship amount

The amount of financial assistance is limited to \$1,070 for the Swannanoa Gathering Old Time Week, or \$200 per scholarship for on-line training. The board may decide to provide less than the maximum assistance. The scholarship will consist of a one-time tuition payment on behalf of the selected applicant (s). If the scholarship amount is insufficient to pay the total required tuition, any remainder of the tuition cost and any other costs associated with the training are the sole responsibility of the selected applicant.

Scholarship requirements

To be considered for a scholarship the applicant must be an AFTM member and provide:

the name and address of the applicant,

the training entity's name and contact information,

the amount of tuition requested,

a brief written explanation of the applicant's current musical skill level, why the applicant wants to take the on-line musical training, and how the training would benefit the applicant.

AFTM memberships can be initiated or renewed online at the [AFTM Joint page](#).

Application information may be e-mailed to AFTMTexas@gmail.com.

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