

News

Nashville Old-Time String Band Association : NOTSBA

www.nashvilleoldtime.org

Post Office Box 160038 Nashville, Tennessee 37216

June 2011

Mark Your Calendar - Christian Wig Concert June 16, 2011

Please bring your friends and join us at the Buchanan Log House for a free concert featuring renowned old-time musician and author Christian Wig on June 16th at 7 PM. From Mechanicstown, Ohio, Christian will have a booth at the *41st Annual American Artisan Festival*, scheduled from June 17th to June 19th at Centennial Park. He has graciously accepted our invitation to provide a concert while in Nashville. You may have jammed with him at the Blue Grass and Old Time Fiddlers *Convention* (Mt. Airy) and the Appalachian String Band Music Festival (Clifftop) in recent years. This past March he gave a presentation on old-time fiddlers as well as an incredible concert at Breakin' Up Winter XVI.

Christian has recorded several CDs of old-time music, some of which will be available at the concert:



Lost Indian—Fiddling on the Frontier was recorded with Whitt Mead, Joe LaRose, and Laura Lewis. It draws on influences from Henry Reed, Emmett Lundy, Edden Hammons, Melvin Wine, Jack McElwain, John Salyer, and Ed Haley.

Chadwell's Station—Fiddling on the Frontier was recorded with Whitt Mead on the banjo. This music draws on the influences of David Hamblen, his son Williamson Hamblen, Hiram Stamper, and Marcus Martin.

Gate to Go Through—Old Time Fiddle and Banjo was recorded with Mark Olitsky and Dave Rice. It includes tunes from the Civil War era, the minstrel tradition, and the African-American experience.

Christian is currently working on a fourth CD to be completed around August of this year.

The Room - The Buchanan Log House has a cozy atmosphere and provides for informal artist-audience interaction. Seating will be first-come, first-served, with some seats allotted for members of the board of our host venue, the Buchanan Log House.

Buchanan Log House is at 2910 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37214.

No June Mansker's Station Third-Thursday Jam - Please note that the regularly scheduled Third-Thursday Jam set for June 16th, 2011, at Mansker's Station will not be held. We hope to see you instead at Christian's concert. ~Lilly Hsu

“Yellow Rose of Texas,” “Santa Anna’s Retreat,” and Chewing Gum

by Lilly Hsu

Most people know the legend behind the old-time tune, “Yellow Rose of Texas.” Emily Morgan, a beautiful woman of mixed race (thus the term “yellow”), had the Mexican General Santa Anna in a compromising position during the period leading up to the Battle of San Jacinto. This enabled Sam Houston and the Texas troops to gain a victory in the battle for the independence of Texas from Mexico. But just who was General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna? He was a colorful character to say the least. He is probably best known for leading the Mexican Army to victory in the famous battle of the Alamo in 1836. He also served several nonconsecutive stints as President of Mexico between 1833 and 1855. There are at least two old-time songs written indirectly or directly about the General—“The Yellow Rose of Texas” and “Santa Anna’s Retreat.”



The Battles leading to Texas Independence

The Battle of the Alamo was one of the encounters leading to Texas Independence from Mexico in 1836. In this particular battle, the Mexican Army’s 1,500 troops outnumbered the defenders, a few hundred Texans. The battle lasted for thirteen days and ended with the deaths of almost all of the defenders, including Tennessee’s Davy Crockett. Only the lives of the women, children, and slaves were spared. General Santa Anna ordered his troops to burn the bodies of the fallen Texans en masse.

Santa Anna was a cold, ruthless commander. In a subsequent encounter in Goliad, unarmed Texan troops led by James Fannin surrendered to the Mexican Army. Unbelievably, General Santa Anna ordered all of the Texans executed in cold blood.

The Yellow Rose of Texas and the Battle of San Jacinto

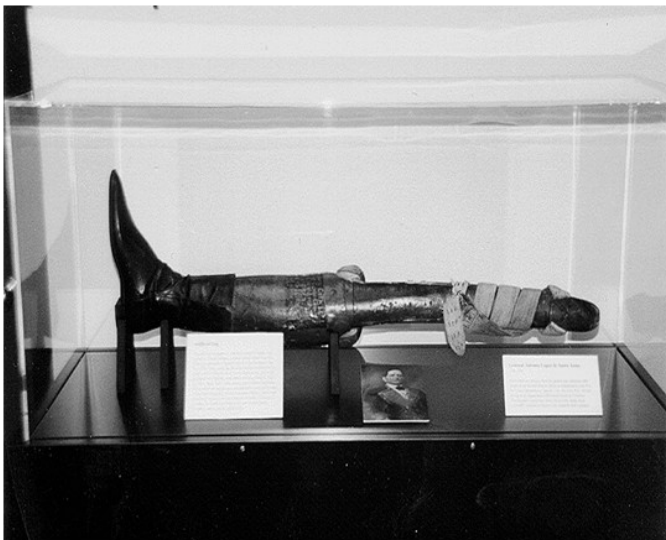
With the slaughters at the Alamo and Goliad fresh on their minds, Texas troops led by Sam Houston prepared for battle against Santa Anna’s forces. Incorrect tactical assumptions led Santa Anna to be overconfident. Believing that Houston and the Texas troops would take a defensive stance rather than attack outright, Santa Anna decided to let his troops have a day of rest and siesta. As the legend goes, Santa Anna became involved with a beautiful indentured servant of mixed race named Emily Morgan (some accounts refer to her as Emily West), who may have been an operative for the Texan army. Her seduction of Santa Anna at this opportune moment enabled Houston’s forces to attack and overcome the Mexican army. The battle was won in a mere eighteen minutes.

Santa Anna’s Retreat

Santa Anna again led the Mexican Army in the Mexican-American War of 1846-1847. In the Battle of Cerra Gordo, the American objective was to clear a path to Mexico City. In addition, the American troops were able to block the Mexican force’s line of retreat. The old-time tune now known as “Santa Anna’s Retreat” was reportedly played by the Mexican Army as they pulled back from the battle. Alan Jabbour has recorded the tune. He picked it up from Henry Reed, who learned it from Quince Dillon, a fifer during the Mexican-American War.

Santa Anna’s Prosthetic Leg

Santa Anna’s leg was amputated as a result of injuries incurred during the Pastry War against the French in 1838-39. Reportedly, he ordered *the leg interred with full military honors*. He subsequently had himself fitted with a prosthetic leg—“a nobly crafted article of wood and cork fitted with a hand-tooled boot of fine Mexican leather.” In the Battle of Cerra Gordo, the battle that gave rise to the old-time tune “Santa Anna’s Retreat,” the Fourth Illinois Infantry captured



his prosthetic leg, and it is now on display at the Springfield, Illinois Military Museum. (www.banjohangout.org.)

Chewing Gum

Santa Anna lived his later years in exile in various places including Kingston, Jamaica, Cuba, St. Thomas, and the United States. He was indirectly involved in starting the chewing gum industry while he was exiled to Staten Island, New York. His secretary, Thomas Adams observed Santa Anna chewing chicle, a Mexican plant. Adams unsuccessfully experimented with the substance to make rubber. Then he added sugar to chicle, which in time became Chiclets chewing gum—and the rest is history. It is unlikely that an old-time tune was written regarding Santa Anna's contribution to this invention.

Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonio_L%C3%B3pez_de_Santa_Anna; <http://www.blackpast.org/?q=perspectives/yellow-rose-texas-ironic-origins-state-song>; <http://www.banjohangout.org/archive/193203> - Mexican retreat from Cerro Gordo; [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/h?ammem/afcreed:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(afcreed+13035a33\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/h?ammem/afcreed:@field(NUMBER+@band(afcreed+13035a33))); http://history-world.org/age_of_santa_anna.htm; <http://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/18808>; <http://www.historycentral.com/mexican/cerramore.html>; <http://legacy.www.nypl.org/branch/staten/index2.cfm?Trg=1&d1=1391>

Sing!: Susie Coleman to Lead the June Fifth-Thursday Specialty Workshop

Susie Coleman is a lifelong musician and performer born in 1951 and raised near Cleveland, Ohio. From 1968 through the late 1980's she worked nightclubs, festivals and special events, on radio shows, and in studios as a demo singer. She's played guitar since she was ten, and learned Top 40, Blues, Rock, Country, and Bluegrass, but ultimately it was folk music that would settle deepest in her heart. Though she no longer pursues a career onstage, Susie still maintains a repertoire covering hundreds of tunes, and she recently picked up the clawhammer banjo.

In the mid-'90s, Susie started competing in singing contests at local music festivals with better than average results—to date, she has a dozen first place awards to her credit, including eight from the annual *Smithville Fiddlers Jamboree* and one from Uncle Dave Macon Days. She's since served multiple times as a judge at the Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention in Athens, Alabama, and Macon County Hillbilly Days in Lafayette, Tennessee.

Susie currently gives beginner guitar lessons in her home in Pegram and is the founder of "Folkslingers," a group of women interested in learning and passing on traditional music. She is writing a series of eight lyric books with guitar chords in keys suitable for the female voice. They are entitled *Fabulous Folksongs Every Girl Should Know*.

Susie believes that few experiences in life can bring as much joy to a human being as music does—no matter what your age or lifestyle, music makes an unbeatable companion.

You can find out more about Susie's pursuits at www.SusieColeman.com. Please join her at the Buchanan Log House from 6:30 to 8:30 on Thursday, June 30th.

~SC

NOTSBA Board Meeting and Annual Election of Officers, June 20th, 6:30 PM

All members are invited to this meeting to be held, as usual, on the third Monday of the month at the Buchanan Log House. If you have business for the organization and cannot come to the meeting, please let a board member know. 2010-2011 board members are: Mary Alice Bernal, Mary Lou Durham, Pat Gill, Ed Gregory, Woody Hall, Jim Hornsby, Lilly Hsu, Darlyne Kent, Don Kent, Joe Lipman, Don Masters, Andy Shivas, Roger Stolen, Ron Whitlow, and Todd Wright.

Where I Want to Go on My Summer Vacation:

June, July, and August 2011 Festivals in our Region—with thanks to *The Old-Time Herald*

AL

August 19-21 (Mentone)

Old Time Music and Dance Weekend, Camp Riverview. Dance, concerts, jamming. Info: www.bamalong.com.

GA

July 20-30 (Hiawassee)

Georgia Mountain Fair, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Concerts, competition, children's activities.

Info: www.georgiamountainfairgrounds.com, (706) 896-4191.

KY

June 5-11 (Hindman)

Appalachian Family Folk Week, Hindman Settlement School. Concerts, workshops, children's events, jamming, dance.

Info: www.HindmanSettlement.org, (606) 785-5475.

June 10-12 (Whitesburg)

Seedtime on the Cumberland. Concerts, jamming, workshops, children's events, dance.

Info: www.appalshop.org/seedtime, (606) 633-0108.

July 15-16 (Falls of Rough)

Official Kentucky State Championship, Rough River Dam State Park.

Competition, jamming.

Info: www.kentuckyfiddler.com.

NC

June 3-4 (Mount Airy)

Bluegrass and Old Time Fiddlers Convention, Veterans Memorial Park.

Competition, jamming.

Info: www.mtairyfiddlersconvention.com, (336) 345-7388.

June 5-11 (Mars Hill)

Blue Ridge old Time Music Week, Mars Hill College. Workshops, jamming.

Info: www.mhc.edu/oldtimemusic, (828) 689-1646.

July 17-23 (Swannanoa)

Old-Time Week at the Swannanoa Gathering, Warren Wilson College.

Workshops, concerts, jamming, Children's events. Info:

www.swangathering.com, (828) 298-3434.

July 15-16 (Sparta)

Alleghany County Fiddler's Convention, Higgins Agricultural Fairgrounds.

Competition, jamming.

Info: www.alleghanyfiddlers.com, (336) 372-8809.

August 4-6 (Asheville)

Mountain Dance and Folk Festival, Diana Wortham Theatre. Concerts, dance.

Info: www.folkheritage.org, (828) 258-6101.



If you can't make it out of town, you can come learn a few more tunes with Kelsey Wells, shown here at the May Tune Workshop.

She'll teach again on June 9th.

Pic/MLD

The fine print:

We appreciate the significant grant funding from TAC that helped bring our wonderful presenters to *Breakin' Up Winter XVI*.

NOTSBA's Purpose: ...preservation and promotion of old-time string band music by bringing together persons interested in old-time music...and by reaching out to the community through public performances, workshops, seminars, festivals, and other public outreach, informational, and educational activities.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or the *Nashville Old-Time String Band Association*. NOTSBA is a volunteer organization. While we strive for accuracy, we do not label as "official" any content found here. Have an idea for an article? **Please e-mail me at mldurham1@juno.com**



August 11-14 (Little Switzerland)

Camp DoReMi, Wildacres Retreat. Workshops, Jamming, shape-note singing.

Info: www.campdoremi.org, (706) 769-8782.

TN

June 12-18, June 19-25 (Maryville)

Steve Kaufman's Acoustic Kamps, 17 miles south of Knoxville. Workshops, concerts, jamming, open stage.

Info: www.flatpik.com, (800) FLAT-PIK.

July 8-10 (Murfreesboro)

Uncle Dave Macon Days, Cannonsburgh Village. Competition, concerts, dance, jamming.

Info: www.uncledavemacondays.com.

VA

June 10-11 (Glen Lyn)

Henry Reed Memorial Fiddlers Convention, Glen Lyn Park. Workshops, concerts, dance, competition, children's events, jamming, open stage. Info: www.gilesmountainstringband.com.

June 13-17 (Independence)

Peach Bottom Farm Fiddle and Strings Camp. Workshops, jamming, camping.

Info: www.peachbottomfarm.com (276) 773-2181.

June 24-25 (Elk Creek)

Grayson County Fiddler's Convention, Elk Creek School Ball Field. Competition, jamming. Info: www.ecvfd.net.

July 28-31 (Floyd)

FloydFest, Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 170.5, Blue Cow Arts Pavilion. Concerts, dance, children's events.

Info: www.floydfest.com, (888) VA-FESTS.

August 8-13 (Galax)

Old Fiddler's Convention, Felts Park. Competition, jamming, concerts.

Info: www.oldfiddlersconvention.com, (276) 236-8541.

August 20 (Fries)

Fries Fiddlers' Convention, Fries Town Park. Competition, jamming. Info: www.graysoncountyva.com, (276) 773-2000.

WV

June 16-19 (Glennville)

West Virginia State Folk Festival. Competition, jamming, dance. Info: www.wvfolkfestival.org.

June 19-25 (Marlinton)

Alleghany Echoes Summer Workshop. Workshops, concerts, dance, children's events, jamming, open stage.

Info: www.alleghanyechoes.com.

August 3-7 (Clifftop)

Appalachian String Band Music Festival (aka, Clifftop), Camp Washington-Carver. Competition, concerts workshops, dance, jamming. Info: www.wvculture.org/stringband, (304) 438-3005.

August 7-14 (Elkins)

Old-Time Week, Augusta Heritage Center, Davis & Elkins College. Workshops, concerts, performances, dance, jamming, camping. Info: www.augustaheritage.com, (800) 624-3157.

August 7-14 (Elkins)

Augusta Dance Week, Davis & Elkins College. Workshops, concerts, performances, dance, jamming, camping.

Info: www.augustaheritage.com, (800) 624-3157.

August 12-14 (Elkins)

Augusta Festival, Elkins City Park and campus of Davis & Elkins College. Concerts, dance, competition, jamming.

Info: www.augustaheritage.com, (800) 624-3157.~

☆ Scheduled Jams ☆

Important Note: Changes in our Jam Schedules

- The Tune Workshops have started moving around to different Thursdays.
- **Through June, the Tune Workshop will be held at Buchanan Log House on the *SECOND* Thursday.**
- For July, August, and September, they will move back to Mansker's Station and will be held on the *THIRD* Thursday.
- Finally, for October, November, and December, the workshops will be at Church of the Advent on the *FOURTH* Thursday.

In other words, the jams will continue to be held where we currently hold them, but the Tune Workshops will move around to different Thursdays—to give more people an opportunity to attend. To avoid confusion, please pay close attention to this, the “Scheduled Jams” section of our newsletter, and see June’s schedule below. ~PS

June 2, 2011, First-Thursday Performance Group Practice

Buchanan Log House is our primary home. We have our practice for the performance group here. Join NOTSBA, if you’re not a member already, and come practice for the several times each year we play at places like the Nashville Zoo, Mansker’s Station, Traveler’s Rest, and the Buchanan Log House. We practice from 6:30-8:30 PM.

June 9, 2011, Second-Thursday Tune Workshop

6:30-8:30 PM, at the Buchanan Log House, 2910 Elm Hill Pike. **Kelsey Wells**, who you may remember from *Breakin’ Up Winter*, will teach for her second of two months. Kelsey is a student at MTSU and a dedicated O-T fiddler. She’ll teach “Tater Patch,” “June Apple,” and “Sugarfoot Rag.” Come on out to meet Kelsey, if you’ve not met her already, and prepare to have some fun with new tunes. Recording is encouraged.

June 16, 2011, CHRISTIAN WIG CONCERT

Come out to Buchanan Log House for an evening of fine old-time music by renowned fiddler Christian Wig. Everyone is invited! Chris will start at 7 PM. See the article on page one for more information.

There is no jam at Mansker’s Station tonight. We’ll see you there in July as the tune workshop moves to that venue for the next three months, July-September. And see below that this month’s Fourth-Sunday Jam is at Mansker’s Bowen House.

June 23, 2011, Fourth-Thursday Regular Jam

Church of the Advent provides space for NOTSBA to host a regular jam in the Youth Room of their Annex. From 6:30 to 8:30 PM we’re playing here at our southern outpost, and we welcome all old-time players of all skill levels to this open jam.

June 26, 2011, Fourth-Sunday Jam

This month’s Sunday afternoon jam is from 2 PM until around 5:30 at Mansker’s Station, 705 Caldwell Drive in Goodlettsville. We play under the lovely tree by the Bowen House if the weather is fair, and we can count on a breeze to cool and refresh. We’ll have a snack break as usual, so please feel free to bring a tasty morsel to share.

Directions: From I-65 north of Nashville, get off at the Long Hollow Pike Exit and go east. Turn right at Caldwell Drive toward the end of the shopping area. Enter the main Moss-Wright Park entrance on Caldwell Drive (not the Visitor’s Center entrance that you will come to first). After driving through the park gates, turn right. Then take the first left. The Bowen House is down on the right, and there are parking places at the historic home. You will see the house from this road, and we will meet somewhere close to the side porch.

June 30, 2011, Fifth-Thursday Specialty Workshop: Singing!

Everyone who likes to sing old-time songs is invited to join us as Susie Coleman leads this singing gathering. Held from 6:30-8:30 PM at the Buchanan Log House, this evening will bring our voices into our music. Susie will hand out materials, and her teaching skills will have us delight in experiencing this vein of old-time music. See you there!

Other Area Old-Time Jams

- ❖ **The Fiddle and Pick has open old-time jams on the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month** in Pegram. Come on out. Gretchen and company welcome music lovers of all ages and skill levels. fiddleandpick.ning.com.
- ❖ **The 5 Spot has a Wednesday Night Old-time Jam** each week. This homey tavern/music venue located in East Nashville has been hosting an OT jam for years now. Have a fine brew and play a few tunes. It’s on Facebook.
- ❖ **Mansker’s Station has a Second-Monday Jam** starting at 6:30 PM in addition to the NOTSBA third-Thursday jams they host. It’s in Goodlettsville, just north of Nashville. If you have questions, call Laura at 615-720-8829.