


*Keeping Tabs On*  
  
**North Harris County Dulcimer Society**

April 2010

**NHCDS Board for new year beginning June 2009**

<b>President</b>	Mary Ann Walker	(281) 856-8753	e-mail: 1geobrgal@sbcglobal.net
<b>Music Director</b>	Jaekob Greene	(832) 443-2814	e-mail: jaekob_nhcds@yahoo.com
<b>Play Coordinator</b>	Jordie Chalupnik	(281) 332-4409	e-mail: chalupjordie@yahoo.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Charles Valka	(713) 686-5799	e-mail: chasv@sbcglobal.net
<b>Secretary</b>	Brenda Damewood	(281) 579-9114	e-mail: bdamewood@sbcglobal.net
<b>Web Site</b>	Suzanne Campling	(832) 334-3915	e-mail: dulcimer.sc@gmail.com

President's message

NHCDS is a great group. A great group has an active membership and active members are part of the leadership and activities. So, I hope you have stepped up if the nominating committee called you to take a spot as an officer of our great group!

Don't forget about the Bluegrass by the Tracks and Trainfair. It is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday – April 10<sup>th</sup>. The gates open at 11 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. The concerts start around noon. This is a fund raiser for the Railroad Museum. ([www.houstonRRmuseum.org](http://www.houstonRRmuseum.org))

Keep on strumming,

*Mary Ann*

**From the Music Director** The North Harris County Dulcimer Society sponsors an Internet radio show that is all dulcimer all the time. I'm not sure that a lot of y'all knew that. It is a very nice station that can be brought up, minimized, and enjoyed. The web address for that is. [www.live365.com/stations/dulcimerradio](http://www.live365.com/stations/dulcimerradio)

Club members, we have a line up of excellent teachers, many of whom are not able to attend meetings regularly and at least three live outside Houston. Please plan on coming to the meeting in time for classes and making these people feel that their time and gas was well spent.

2:00 - Hammer Dulcimer - Peggy Carter, nationally recognized teacher  
 Autoharp - Judy Dugas - sings and plays professionally

3:00 - Beginner - Mary Ann Walker - experienced MD player and leader of a group in the north west/Cypress area  
 Intermediate - Jaekob Greene - 2009 Mountain Dulcimer champion  
 Repertoire - Gordon White - Old time musician and director of Bayou City festival

Don't forget that we are eating in at the meetings at 6:00 so that we can get to know other members a little better. This is not a pot luck dinner. It is just brown bag and you take care of yourself only. Something easy with easy cleanup. Where we are located makes it harder to go out to eat and get back in a timely fashion. If we eat in there will be more time for jamming.

**- Play Director's Notes and Upcoming Plays – sign up at meeting or call Jordie**

**THANKS** to everyone that signed up for March 21 at Independence; sorry that it was cancelled due to COLD weather. There is still another Sunday for you to help with so please see below for info.

New Plays for you to be involved in and to enjoy. An event needs participation and that means each of you can have a great time sharing the music with others. We don't charge folks but sometimes we receive donations for playing.

If you have never been on a 'play' then it is high time that you pulled your instrument out and joined us on the next fun filled event. If you are familiar with the music then be a Play Leader. It's not hard. Just pick up a gig bag, choose the tunes, practice with the group if you can and then you are a Play Leader. We do need Play Leaders for several of the following plays. Look for sign up sheets at the next meeting.

**2010 Events: MORE to SIGN UP FOR**

**Independence, Texas Historical Society Open House – Sunday, April 18.**

We have played here for several years. This is in the town of Independence and is for four weekends but we are only doing two and only have one left. Maps at the meeting.  
Play Leaders \_\_\_\_\_(please volunteer)\_\_\_\_\_

**Katy IDS –FolkLife Festival – Saturday, April 10 - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Katy ISD Learning Center**

Welch Outdoor Learning Center, 6301 S. Stadium Lane, Katy, TX. Put this one on your calendar early.  
Play Leader is William Damewood. We still need players

**San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment – Saturday, April 24 – play 10:00 am -6:00 pm.**

Period clothes for this favorite event. Come and enjoy the reenactment and all the folks that love to hear music. This is just off hwy 225 in Deer Park. Need a Play Leader.

**Cypress Historical Society – “Old Fashioned Picnic” – Saturday, July 10 at Cypress Top Park**

They say that we were such a big hit last year that they want us back again this year. We can have demos and/or specific play sets during the day's events. Enjoy other activities and the free food. **PLAY LEADER \_\_\_\_\_ YOU? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Martyn Farm Harvest Celebration at Armand Bayou Nature Center – Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 13 and 14 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year for this fall event. We always have a great time playing on the porch of the old house. Need a play leader for each day. Let me know who.

**Christmas (yes! Christmas) tree decorating party at Cypress Top Historic Park, Thursday, December 9**

Early, but they wanted to get on our calendar!  
Let me know if you hear of other events.  
Play for fun, for relaxation, for others!

**Treasurers report**

MARCH, 2010

Beginning Balance \$5,583.22

Income:

CDs 60.00

Dues	170.00
Cookbooks	20.00
Honorium (Washington on Brazos)	50.00

Deposit	300.00
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Expenses:

Door Prizes	15.15
Sales Tax	56.27

Expenses	(71.42)
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Ending Balance	\$5,811.80
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Last Months Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by our president, Mary Ann Walker, with 25 members present. Last months minutes were approved as written. Jaekob was in Chicago with the choir for Spring break so Marianne thanked the teachers for the classes. Jordie gave the report on the plays. Washington on the Brazos sent a thank you note and a check for \$50.00. She also talked about Palestine that starts on Thursday at noon. She still needs 2 people to pick up entertainers at the airport on Thursday. Bluegrass by the tracks is having a festival and fundraiser for the museum April 10. It will be in the newsletter. Charles gave the treasurer's report. Visitors were announced. Gordon thanked NHCDS for it's support. Prices to attend Bayou City Festival will remain the same. It will be the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in July. Marianne Drabek talked about donations to the festival for the raffle. Mary Ann asked for donations for door prizes for Bayou City. We can advertise the festival on the internet radio station. It will also be in the Dulcimer Player News. Carolyn Mounce lost her tuner in one of the classrooms. The bill for NHCDS website is due and it costs \$100.00. If anyone knows a place that is cheaper let someone know. Nominating committee was approved as Ken Kincel, Bill Chalupnik and Bo Allison. The church has been sold and NHCDS will be moving with the church in December. Door prizes were done. Mary Ann gave Ken the clubs condolences and the meeting was adjourned.

**Membership changes:**

**Barbara Reeves**  
**626 Leaflet**  
**Spring, TX 77388**  
**281-288-1418 cell# 713-906-9401**  
[reeves.family@yahoo.com](mailto:reeves.family@yahoo.com)

Two Well Named Festivals

This past month I was fortunate enough to attend both the Lagniappe festival in Port Allen, LA and Old Pal in Palestine, TX. Both festivals seemed to outdo themselves with headliners, classes and concerts. I couldn't help but think how different the festivals are and how well they reflect their names.

Lagniappe, a French word meaning a little something extra, makes sure that attendees get that. With each registration you are given tickets to be deposited for door prizes, which are drawn nightly. There is a raffle, too, but we are talking about prizes for just being there. The crawfish boil on Thursday, which is offered free to those who want to try mudbugs, is most enjoyable. I thought they were delicious and after trying the crawfish again at a well-known restaurant on the way home, I know just how good a chef Lagniappe had. Hope he's there next year.

As for a festival, Lagniappe is fast moving with the first of five classes in a day starting at 8:30. Lunch is 45 minutes. Thankfully, you can order a catered meal in advance. There is a printed schedule for everyone and things certainly seemed to run like clockwork.

The headliners like Bill Taylor and Ken Bloom are folks who enjoy the chance to play together and their sets really showed it. Lagniappe is always new each year because of their policy not to bring the same headliners two years in a row.

Now move from the fast paced Lagniappe to Old Pal. Like its name, Old Pal is as predictably comfortable as your favorite slippers or old sweater. Most of the headliners, Wayne Henderson, Carl Jones, Beverly Smith, Don Pedi to name a few, are regulars and we expect to see them just like we expect to see our cousins at the family reunion. Jerry Wright usually throws in a few new ones as well just to spice things up, and it always works. Old Pal sets the standard for a relaxed festival. There are only three class sessions. They are longer which is nice. You find out who is teaching what when you check the chart where people list what they are teaching and when. Since there is no rush between class times, I enjoyed coming back to look for the next class. You never knew when something new might have been added to the list. The half hour break also allows a person to browse the vendors or gather around in the hall for a Gospel sing along. There is plenty of time to get lunch and get back for the afternoon concert. The same is true in the afternoon - lots of time for relaxing after the last class. A nap slipped in is not a bad idea because the concert lasts until the final act is done and no one is rushed off stage. Saturday night went from 6:45 to 10:45, and I don't know where the time went. The music was incredible.

Many thanks go to Helen Bankston and the Lagniappe Dulcimer society for their fast paced, tightly organized festival and to Jerry Wright, his family and many volunteers for their relaxed easy going festival. So different and so much fun - I love them both. Marianne Drabek

**Anything that you think needs to go in the newsletter needs to be sent to me by the Wednesday before the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday jam of each month. You can e-mail it to me at [bdamewood@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bdamewood@sbcglobal.net). If you have anything that you think the club would be interested in knowing just let me know.**

**\*\*Here are the details about the Copperfield area jam:**

Tuesday - Copperfield Church Room C-2

8350 Hwy 6 North (just south of West Rd., behind U-Haul)

For the winter we are meeting 6:30-8:30.

Mary Ann Walker

Traditional Sounds

[www.traditionalsounds.com](http://www.traditionalsounds.com)

**\*\*Bread and Jam meets the 2nd Sunday evening 6:30-8 pm at St. Timothy's United Methodist Church, 8787 North Houston Rosslyn road in the fellowship hall. The Bread part - bring canned or staple food items for the food pantry. The Jam part - play and sing gospel music. All instruments welcome. Beginners welcome. Singers/listeners also welcome. Contact Peggy Johnson at 713-466-8277 or [peggy5020@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peggy5020@sbcglobal.net) for information.**

**\*\*Strings and Things, a folk ensemble, has started the fall season. All acoustic instruments are welcome, and mountain dulcimers are needed. While we play some old time tunes, much of our repertoire is different from the club's repertoire. S&T meets at 7:00 pm on Tuesday nights at the Spring Branch Community Center, 1721 Pech Rd. Call me at 713-728-1797 or email a reply to this announcement for more information. Marianne**

## SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT

### Rhett Butler

APRIL 10, 7:30 PM



Ofentimes the first question about **Rhett Butler** is, “Is he the guy who plays two guitars at once?” Yes, he’s that guy. The second question often has to do with *Gone With the Wind*. No, he’s not that guy – but he is dark and handsome like Clark Gable. Since he first opened for one of our concerts a few years ago, and subsequently knocked us out twice as the main act, people have not stopped asking when we’re going to have him back.

Rhett is rapidly taking his place as a Texas Guitar Hero. In addition to a blazing technique and a genius for arrangement, he is a consummate professional and a pleasure to deal with. Rhett has performed with Tommy Emmanuel, Al DiMeola, Eric Johnson, Joe Satriani, Monte Montgomery, Larry Coryell, Tony Trischka, The California Guitar Trio, and many other greats of instrumental music. The Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* has called his performance “jaw-dropping”. When he plays two guitars, Rhett rarely touches the body of either one – making most of his sounds by

tapping directly onto the finger board, or “hammering-on” in guitar parlance.

Rhett received his musical training in the jazz program at The University of North Texas, where he first began developing his trademark style. A great driving force in all of Rhett’s music is his passionate commitment to his brother Ashley, who was diagnosed at the age of two with pediatric brain cancer. Rhett has produced a five – CD boxed set whose proceeds are dedicated to providing the world-class care needed to support Ashley’s continuing battle with that disease. When Rhett received his first guitar for Christmas in 1987, he found in his music “...an antidote for the pain and fear that he felt through his brother’s bouts with cancer...” Come out and join us the second Saturday in April for some wonderful music, and a chance to support a great cause.

The concerts are held at the **West University Community Center at 6104 Auden** (intersection of Auden. and Rice Blvd.) Tickets are on sale at the door: Adults - \$12; Senior citizens (65 and over) - \$8.00. Children under 12 are welcome and free when with adults; children 12-18 and students with ID - \$8.00. For more information call Paul Cooper at 713-204-1207 or Christine Hartman at 281-495-2923. Don't forget to bring cookies, brownies, cupcakes, or whatever, to sell at the food table.

Houston Railroad Museum

[www.houstonRRmuseum.org](http://www.houstonRRmuseum.org)

# BLUEGRASS AND TRAINS

The Houston Railroad Museum's Second Annual  
Benefit Concert

**Bluegrass by the Tracks and  
Trainfair**

Saturday, April 10th, 2010

11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
(live music starts shortly after noon)

**Admission Prices**

Adult \$8.00  
Child \$3.00

**Discounts for Groups**

musicians with  
instruments and  
model railroad  
exhibitors are  
admitted free

713 319 8906  
for more information

**BRING A  
LAWNCHAIR**

**Bluegrass by the Tracks and Trainfair**

Please join us for an afternoon of old time trains and old time music, to benefit the Houston Railroad Museum. Lots of food and fun for the whole family, including museum tours and toy trains for the kids.

Doors open at 11 a.m. with live music starting shortly after noon.

**Featuring**

The Lonestar Bluegrass Band  
Digger Davis and Tombstone  
Texas Harmony  
Dr. Rod Moag

Larry "Big Daddy" Burnside, m.c.

**Sponsors Make the Difference**

**WE  
APPRECIATE  
OUR  
SPONSORS!**

If you cant attend "Bluegrass by the Tracks" this year but would like to assist the Museum with its restoration efforts, you can become a sponsor of the event, like Union Pacific, Papa Ben's Train Place, local elected officials and many members and friends of the Museum. Simply address your tax-deductible check to the Houston Railroad Museum.

**The Houston  
Railroad Museum**  
7390 Mesa Road  
Houston, Texas  
77028

Take McCarty Road exit off IH 610 and go one mile north. Turn left on Mesa Rd. Museum is approximately one mile on the right.

*The Houston Railroad Museum was established in 1967 and is a project of the Gulf Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation. The Museum is operated entirely by volunteers and earnestly solicits contributions in the form of money or volunteer activity.*

*Chapter meetings are held every third Tuesday of the month at the Museum and visitors are always welcome.*

Save  
\$1.00  
per  
ticket

This coupon entitles a family to \$1.00 off the price of each admission ticket to the Houston Railroad Museum's 2010 Bluegrass by the Tracks benefit concert.

- **Houston Railroad Museum** They have scheduled 'jam sessions' on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at this Museum. It is located just outside the 610 Loop at McCarty Dr. Here is the website:

[www.houstonRRmuseum.org](http://www.houstonRRmuseum.org).

**NHCDS WEBSITE** - Be sure to check the club website regularly for new information and other interesting pictures/articles. To submit pictures and/or information for the web site, email to: Carolyn Mounce at [Carolyn@noracom.com](mailto:Carolyn@noracom.com) or Rita Drake at [reetd2000@yahoo.com](mailto:reetd2000@yahoo.com). Site location: <http://www.houstondulcimer.com>. To get into the "Members Only" area of the website the user name is 'oldtimey' and the password is 'cabbage'.

**Newsletter:** Please send me articles and information that you think other club members would like to know. Email: [bdamewood@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bdamewood@sbcglobal.net) or send to Brenda Damewood at 21427 Park Mount, Katy, TX 77450 (please mail by the first of the month following a meeting) or you may call me at 281-579-9114.

**ANNUAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP**- Dues are \$20.00 for a family membership, \$15.00 for single membership, and \$12.50 for an associate membership for someone who doesn't attend meetings or vote but does receive the newsletter. Also, donations are gladly accepted.

#### NHCDS MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE-

NHCDS meets the third Saturday of each month at Epiphany Lutheran Church at 8101 Senate, Houston.

-2:00 - 4:00 OPEN JAM

-2:00 - 3:00 BEGINNER HAMMER DULCIMER

-2:00 - 3:00 AUTOHARP, ALL LEVELS

-3:00 - 4:00 STRING SIDE UP (First time player mountain dulcimer class. One time only)

-3:00 - 4:00 BEGINNER MOUNTAIN DULCIMER (learn more skills)

-3:00 - 4:00 INTERMEDIATE MOUNTAIN DULCIMER (learn the most popular jam tunes, faster tunes and skills like fingerpicking, flatpicking, hammer-ons, pull-offs, and harmonics)

-3:00 - 4:00 REPERTOIRE CLASS (learn new tunes to add to the club list!)

4:00 - 4:30 BUSINESS MEETING

-4:30 - 6:00 JAMMING TIME!!!

-6:00 - 7:00 DINNER BREAK

-7:00 - ??? JAMMING TIME!!!

#### **Directions to the new meeting location at 8101 Senate Street:**

From Hwy 290 going west, exit on Senate (first exit past Beltway 8). Turn right. Go through residential area, through three four-way stops to end of Senate. Church is on your left.

From Hwy 290 going east, exit on Senate. Turn left. Go through residential area, through three four-way stops to end of Senate. Church is on your left.

From Beltway 8 going north, exit at West Little York to the feeder road. Continue going north, passing under Hwy 290. (The roadway becomes Senate.) Go through residential area, through three four-way stops to end of Senate. Church is on your left.

From Beltway 8 going south, exit at West Rd./Philippine to the feeder road. Continue on the feeder through 3 lights (West, Philippine, Gulf Bank). Turn right at Hwy 290 (4th light). Turn right again at the next light (Senate). Go through residential area, through three four-way stops to end of Senate. Church is on your left.

