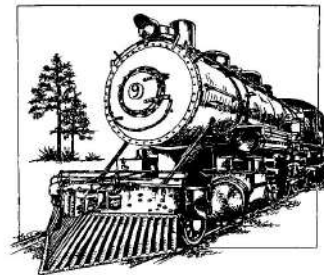


# OKEFENOKEE HERITAGE CENTER NEWSLETTER



October  
November  
December  
2022

## Gram Parsons Guitar Pull

By Dave Griffin

Ingram Cecil Connor III, known to the world as Gram Parsons, spent the first 12 years of his life in the small, South Georgia railroad town of Waycross.

It was here in Waycross that he hunted and fished the Okefenokee Swamp with his daddy, "Coondog" Connor; took his first piano lessons from Bessie Maynard; and at 9 years of age, saw The Louvin Brothers and met Elvis at the Waycross City Auditorium.

In the late Sixties, Gram Parsons's musical vision changed the course of modern music, blending honky-tonk, bluegrass, and folk music with a rock and roll attitude that he called Cosmic American Soul.

Writing and recording with The Byrds and The Flying Burrito Brothers; teaching The Rolling Stones the high lonesome harmonies of American country music; and mentoring his partner in song, Emmylou Harris...his musical influence, although short-lived, still inspires musicians and fans around the world to this day.

GP's genre-shifting musical legacy will once again be calling music lovers, artists, and fans back to his childhood home of Waycross, Georgia Oct. 13-15 as the 25th Annual Gram Parsons Guitar Pull and Tribute Festival gets underway at the Okefenokee Fairgrounds.

A spectacular weekend celebrating the music of Waycross's own Gram Parsons, this year's Guitar Pull, presented by Safe at Home Productions, features as headliners Blackberry Smoke's Charlie Starr and Benji Shanks, as well as Ian Dunlop, bassist and band mate of Parsons in The International Submarine Band. 23 additional artists from around the country will round out the entertainment over three days.

The weekend tribute officially begins on Thursday Oct. 13 at 7 pm with Uncle Dave's Waycross Stagecoach featuring original sets from The Pine Box Dwellers, The Page Brothers, Fester Hagood, Levi Lowery, and Uncle Dave, ending with an Allstar Tribute to Roots of Country Music.

General Admission tickets and RV Camping is available online at [www.gpgpfest.com](http://www.gpgpfest.com). Weekend passes for Waycross residents may be purchased locally at Breezy's Boutique and James Engraving.

On-site RV and primitive camping will be available. Tent camping is free upon festival admission.

Arts and crafts, clothing, music, and food vendors will scatter the grounds as well, leaving concert-goers plenty of opportunities to shop during the festival. Be sure to bring a comfortable lawn chair or blanket and cooler, if you wish. Pets are welcome; but please make sure they are leashed.

Make your plans to attend this year's 25th Annual Gram Parsons Guitar Pull and Tribute Festival. Come rain or shine, you won't be disappointed.

For tribute information or sponsorship inquiries, contact Dave Griffin of Safe at Home Productions Inc. by emailing [rebelaires@yahoo.com](mailto:rebelaires@yahoo.com).

Visit [www.gpgpfest.com](http://www.gpgpfest.com) for vendor submissions, schedule of performance times, and links to artist websites.

### OHC Calendar

#### Oct.

5-	Board Meeting	12pm
8-	Local Fare Market	10-1pm
11-	OHC Black History Committee	6pm
13-	"A Walk in the Past" Historic Ghost Walk	6-8pm
13-15	Gram Parsons Guitar Pull & Tribute Festival	
18-	OHC Photography Guild	6pm
20-	Pumpkin Fest Downtown	
25-	OHC Art Guild	5:30pm
26-	Executive Board Meeting	5pm
28-	OHC History Guild	12pm
28-	Veteran's Benefits Seminar	9-12pm

#### Nov.

2-	Board Meeting	12pm
5-	Local Fare Market/Yard Sale	10-1pm
8-	OHC Black History Committee	6pm
11-	Veteran's Day Celebration/Exhibits	10am
12-	"Red, White & Blue" 5k and Mile	8am
15-	OHC Photography Guild	7pm
18-	OHC History Guild	12pm
23-	Executive Board Meeting	5pm
24-	Thanksgiving Day	

#### Dec.

3-	Christmas in the 'Cross	9-3pm
4-	Up-and-Coming Art Reception	3-5pm
7-	OHC Board Meeting	12pm
13-	OHC Black History Committee	6pm
17-	"I'll Be Home for Christmas"	
20-	OHC Photography Guild	6pm
23-	OHC History Guild	12pm
25-	Christmas Day	
28-	Executive Board Meeting	5pm

For more info: 912-285-4260

## NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

So much has been going on at the Okefenokee Heritage Center lately! We have some amazing volunteers and board members who pull together to make things happen. October, November and December look to be very busy months. Check out our Calendar of Events for more details. We will be holding our second "A Walk in the Past" with our Clover Heritage Club members portraying characters from the area's past. Our Judge Ben Smith juried art show will be going on the entire month of October. Come out and show your support to our very talented local artists. Don't forget to visit the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Gram Parsons Guitar Pull at the fairgrounds, Oct 13 – 15<sup>th</sup>, and visit our exhibit here at OHC. We will be honoring our veterans all the month of November with a Veterans Benefits Seminar, Veterans Day Celebration with an amazing Veterans Exhibits and Art Show. And we will introduce our Inaugural Veterans Day Red, White and Blue Color Run held at the Waycross-Ware County Airport. In December, the art gallery will present the "Nancy King, Up and Coming Youth Art Show". Of course our much anticipated "Christmas in the 'Cross" will be held the first Saturday in December. You don't want to miss that! Please check out the OHC YouTube channel. Mr. John Jordan, chairman of our Social Media Committee, has been working hard to provide interesting and informative content to our channel. A special shout out to GATX for their generous donation to upgrade and renovate our caboos, which is in much need of a paint job and repairs. Hopefully that will be accomplished by the next newsletter and we will post pictures of the ribbon cutting. Come and visit us!

The Okefenokee Heritage Center, we're on the right track!

*Carla Cornett Eddings, Executive Director*



**And a Happy 110th Birthday to Ol' Number 9 this November!!**

*Special Thanks to:*



**CHECK OUT WHATS HAPPENING!**



**Waycross-Ware County  
Airport**

3098 Keen Drive ~ Waycross, GA

912-287-4400 ~ wareairport@warecounty.com



## WHATS HAPPENING! – CONT.

2022 25TH ANNUAL OCT 13-15

**GRAM PARSONS**  
GUITAR PULL & TRIBUTE FESTIVAL  
OKEFENOKEE FAIRGROUNDS WAYCROSS, GA

**CHARLIE STARR & BENJI SHANKS**  
**BLACKBERRY SMOKE**  
**IAN DUNLOP**

ABBY OWENS CRABGRASS COWBOYS DAVID KRAAI DEEPWELL  
DAKOTA DODGE DONNA FROST FESTER HAGOOD  
GREG HENDERSON & THE WAY OUTS GYPSY HEARTS  
HICKORY WIND KELLIE & THE KRUZE-O-MATICS LEVI LOWREY  
LUCKY MUD MARLIN BRACKETT  
MICAH BONN PAGE BROTHERS PINE BOX DWELLERS  
ROSS PEARD & THE CYPRESS KNEES SUNDOWNER MOTEL SUSAN HALL  
TONI BROWN & ED MUNSON TY MANNING & THE SLAWDOG BISCUITS

THURSDAY NIGHT CAMPGROUND CONCERT  
UNCLE DAVE'S WAYCROSS STAGECOACH

www.GPGPFEST.COM

## Remembering The First Two Schools In Waycross

A clear line of demarcation runs through our community that's as true of Ware County residents as it is Waycross inhabitants. Ask someone where they went to high school and it'll tell you a lot. If they say "Central Avenue" that places them in the young category. If they say "Ava Street" then you can peg them to a certain generation. And if they answer "The Central School," well then, you might better go look for a cane. The Central School was a magnificent edifice smack in the middle of downtown, occupying what is now known as "The Monroe Block." It wasn't Waycross first public school. That honor went to a rambling structure on the corner of Isabella and Lott streets that wasn't razed until the late '30s or early '40s. In time, that building gave way to The Central School, which in its turn yielded to Ava Street, even though it lasted for several more years as the Junior High. It was on May 15, 1950 that the Central School came down, and our reporter Laurie Lee Sparrow reported the event.

By: Larry Purdom with Joe Ballentine

By the Way ... It Happened In Waycross – Volume III  
(for sale at the Okefenokee Heritage Center)

**"A Walk in the Past"**  
**Historic Ghost Walk**

**Thursday, October 13, 2022**

**6PM - 8PM ~ Tours every 15 mins**

**Call for reservation (912) 285-4260**  
**or email: okeheritage@gmail.com**

**Sponsored by: The Clover Heritage Club**

**Okefenokee Heritage Center ~ 1460 N. Augusta Ave.**



### OCTOBER 2022 JUDGE BEN SMITH ART COMPETITION

PAINTING | DRAWING | PHOTOGRAPHY | 3-D

**Artwork entires must  
be submitted by  
SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2022**

**AWARDS PRESENTED  
OCTOBER 23, 2022**

Okefenokee Heritage Center  
1460 N. Augusta Ave.  
Waycross, Ga. 31503  
(912) 285-4260



**NANCY KING**  
**"UP AND COMING YOUTH ART SHOW"**

**DECEMBER 2022**

**Middle & High School age students**

**Reception Sunday, December 4th ~ 3PM - 5PM**

**Okefenokee Heritage Center**  
**1460 N. Augusta Avenue**

912-285-4260 okeheritage@gmail.com

### Classes Offered:

**Mind over Mat(ter) with Linsey Sauls**

**Tuesdays at 6  
912-548-3932**

**Pop Fusion Dance with April Sheruing Lee**

**Thursdays at 6  
912-281-2976**

# Okefenokee Heritage Center

1460 N. Augusta Avenue  
Waycross, GA 31503  
912-285-4260

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

## OHC Mission Statement:

The Okefenokee Heritage Center is a cultural art center and local history museum for all people, which seeks to promote an appreciation of the arts and an increased understanding of history and development of the Okefenokee region through its cultural and educational programs, collections, and exhibitions.

*Proudly serving Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Pierce & Ware.*



Georgia Power

### **OHC Board of Trustees 22/23**

Alan Jones, Chairman  
Danny Barnes, Vice Chair  
Mrs. Judy Kurrasch, Treasurer  
Clint Bowman, Past Chair  
\*Mrs. Sue Clark, 2<sup>nd</sup> V. Chair

Mrs. Rosa Douglas  
Mr. Stephen Winge  
Mr. Dale Wiley  
\*\*Mrs. Nancy King  
Mrs. Vicki Kuhbander  
Mrs. Kristy Foreman  
Mrs. Jorah Mitchell  
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Mr. Greg Smith  
Mr. Andrew Taylor

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Ms. Leslie Ranew  
\*\*Dr. S. William Clark

*\* - Denotes Life Member \*\* - Denotes Honorary Member*

Mr. Joseph Johnson, Jr., Legal Counsel

### **Staff:**

Carla Cornett Eddings, Executive Director  
Carla Weekley, Clerical Assistant  
Sherian Barnes, Office Manager  
Elder Jacob Hatcher, Office Volunteer  
Garrett Wilson, Intern SGSC

**A special thanks to ALL of our OHC Members!!  
“We’re on the right track”!**

## **Invite a friend to join the Okefenokee Heritage Center**

Individual	\$36
Family	\$60
Heritage Club	\$100
Billy Bowlegs Society	\$200
Small Business	\$150
Business Sponsor	\$500
Corporate Sponsor	\$1,000
Corporate Partners	\$5,000
* Join one of our many Guilds	

**All donations are tax deductible**

## **RENT OUR SPACE**

You can rent the facilities at the Okefenokee Heritage Center for parties, reunions, etc.

Community Room	\$150
Community/Kitchen	\$200
Depot	\$250
The Venue	\$200
Warehouse/ Depot	\$350
Grounds	\$150

For more information, call:  
**912-285-4260**

**Visit us on Facebook**



**And on YouTube**



**[okeheritage@gmail.com](mailto:okeheritage@gmail.com)**